

'Hurricane of protest' threat over new rates

Thousands of firms face huge rises

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

More than half a million businesses face rate increases of at least 50 per cent when a uniform commercial rate is introduced in April, it was disclosed yesterday.

Backbench Conservative MPs — who fear the small businesses which fuelled the economic regeneration might go to the wall — will put ministers under intense pressure to soften the impact of the new rate when Parliament resumes next week.

And business leaders said there would be a "hurricane" of protest once the scale of the new rate demands became widely known.

The Government will be anxious that firms do not pass on the increase to customers, adding a further twist to the inflationary spiral, but Mr John Benham, director general of the CBI, said the increased burden could cause a one-point rise in the Retail

Price Index "at just the wrong time".

Conservative MPs are to seek a meeting with Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, to express their concern about the effects of the switch to the new system — both on businesses and on the party's prospects in the May local elections.

The impact of the uniform rate — introduced in an attempt to stop high-spending councils "milking" local businesses with excessive rate

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demands — became apparent yesterday when the new lists of rateable values were published after the first revaluation of commercial premises since 1973. Every business in England will pay 34.8p in the pound, and in Wales the rate will be 36.8p.

Nearly a million businesses, mostly in London and the South-East, will face increases — Harrods' rates will rise from £1 million to £2,352,000 — while another 500,000, mainly in the North and the Midlands, will pay less.

Anyone moving to new premises after April will have to pay the new rate immediately, but others will have their bills adjusted gradually over five years. The new rate is expected to yield £10.4 billion a year.

Mr Henry Bellingham, vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on small businesses, said yesterday that he would ask ministers to look again at the transition arrangements so that the strain on small businesses would be eased.

"Small businesses, particularly those in the service sector who have been the lifeblood of regeneration, are going to be particularly hit, very, very hard. The transition arrangements were made before there were high interest rates and there had been a downturn in economic activity. We are talking about small businesses suffering enormously and some places being forced to close down," he said.

Under the new system, 928,000 business and commercial properties face higher bills. Of those, about 240,000 will have their rates more than doubled and another 230,000 will have to pay more than 50 per cent more. About 108,000

will pay roughly the same as at present.

Many of the largest increases will affect shops and offices in the West End of London: Selfridges in Oxford Street will pay £6,264,000, compared with £1,830,000. But rates for Kendals in Manchester will fall from £622,024 to £565,556 and one factory in the North-West will have a reduction from £349,773 to £147,865.

Under the transition arrangements, businesses with a rateable value of more than £10,000 outside London and £15,000 in the capital will pay maximum increases of 20 per cent plus inflation for the next five years. Those with reduced bills will have cuts of 10.5 per cent this year and 13 per cent in the following year.

Mr Hunt defended the new system, saying that the business community had been pressing for a number of years for a change for a number of years in the rating system as under the existing system local councils, particularly high-spending Labour authorities, had been "milking" local businesses.

Mr Hunt said the new system was fair and would particularly help factories all over the country as they would find their rates falling by an average 31 per cent.

But MPs from the traditional Conservative heartland of southern England were facing angry demands from local businessmen for some form of relief.

Mr James Pawsey, Conservative MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "The figures facing some businesses are appalling. They are staggering. This will have an adverse effect on inflation as many companies will try to pass on the increases by way of price rises, and it will hit employment, particularly in the hard-pressed retail sector. One of the biggest overruns for small businesses is wages and I think there will be job losses as a result."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the MP for Brent North, feared for the future of shops in small villages. He said: "The timing of this is demonic just before the local government elections. The transitional arrangements mean that people will be paying 20 per cent plus inflation over a period of five years. This is death by inches."

Czechoslovak leader sees both sides of wall

Havel is unafraid of one Germany

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin
and John England, Bonn

President Havel, of Czechoslovakia, said yesterday that Europe had nothing to fear from a united Germany.

Mr Havel, making his first foreign presidential trip — to East and West Germany — also revealed that Herr Manfred Gerlach, the East German head of state, had told him that the Berlin Wall would soon be demolished completely.

Mr Havel said that his country had no objections to German reunification, but warned that the two Germanies should wait for the current euphoria to subside before deciding their future.

"Whether Germany has 60 million or 80 million people is

The shrinking appeal of the East German communist party has led to the loss of a significant number of full-time jobs as the purge of party perks, such as Western cars and access to special restaurants, goes on.....7

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not the main question," said Mr Havel. "Democratic awareness and democratic structures in Germany are much more important than the question of German unity."

The remarks, which drew no reaction from his East German hosts, are a clear departure from the Warsaw Pact's cautious line on reunification and flies in the face of Soviet warnings of the perils of a larger Germany.

Mr Eduard Schevardnaze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said two weeks ago that any attempt to change the borders in Europe would lead to dangerous destabilization.

Mr Havel also told journalists that Herr Gerlach had told him that work was already being planned for the demolition of the Berlin Wall.

"I told him if he had problems we could send some independent Czech workers in to help free of charge," Mr Havel joked to applause from East German journalists.

Mr Havel said the two Germanies were Czechoslovakia's "largest and most important neighbours", and called for a new start to

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President Havel, surrounded by security men at the Brandenburg Gate, during his visits to the two Germanies yesterday

IRA claims first victim of 1990

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

A Protestant taxi driver was killed by an IRA bomb in east Belfast yesterday — the first terrorist victim in Northern Ireland this year.

Mr Harold Dickey, aged 37, married with two children, died about 100 yards from his home in the Sydenham area of the city.

His daughter, Gillian, aged 16, who was being driven to school by her father, survived the blast. She was helped free by neighbours and was later treated in hospital.

The IRA, which claimed responsibility for Mr Dickey's murder, said that he was a senior member of the Ulster Defence Association, a legal Protestant paramilitary organization.

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ization. This was later denied by the UDA.

However, the Ulster Democratic Party, a "loyalist" political group with close links with the UDA, confirmed that Mr Dickey was one of its members. Mr Dickey's mur-

der, following hard on the heels of a series of new year messages from local politicians expressing the hope that Northern Ireland might find its way to peace this year, was widely condemned.

Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist Party deputy leader and Mr Dickey's local MP, condemned the murder as barbarous and said that the IRA had delivered its habitual ruthless and savage message.

Mr John Hume, Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, who has called on the people of Northern Ireland to

use Eastern European-style "people power" to end the violence, said it was time that the IRA admitted their campaign had failed.

Last year, terrorism claimed 62 lives in Northern Ireland, the third lowest total since 1970. The death toll included 39 civilians, 12 regular soldiers, two members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, seven RUC officers and two police reservists.

For the 1980s as a whole, 778 people died from terrorism compared with almost 2,000 in the previous 10 years.

MP 'stole from his ex-lover'

By David Sapsted

Ron Brown, the Labour MP for Edinburgh, Leith, yesterday denied theft and causing almost £800 of damage at his former lover's home.

Lewes Crown Court was told that Mr Brown stole two pairs of knickers and jewellery from Mrs Nonna Longden, with whom he had a three-year affair.

Mr Richard Camden Pratt, for the prosecution, said Mr Brown had also smashed windows, mirrors and glasses in Mrs Longden's flat in St Leonards after she rejected his appeals to return to him.

Mrs Longden denied suggestions that she had taken "politically sensitive" tapes belonging to the MP as a bargaining counter for financial support when the affair ended.

Court report, page 3

Calls for random testing renewed

By Paul Wilkinson and Quentin Cowdry

Chief constables and MPs yesterday renewed calls for police to be given powers to breathalyse drivers at random despite receiving evidence of a further sharp drop in drink-driving in many areas over Christmas and the new year.

Figures obtained by The Times yesterday show that the percentage of drivers failing tests this year fell in many areas, with two forces — Cleveland and Avon and Somerset — recording fewer failures despite greatly increased levels of testing.

However, police in Cambridgeshire, Dorset and Staffordshire, who conducted less intensive campaigns than usual, will be prosecuting more drink-drivers after the seasonal crackdown compared with last year.

In London 962 motorists failed out of 15,248 tested, a 2.5 per cent drop on last year's

figure, while in Dyfed-Powys in Wales, where there was a fourfold rise in the numbers breathalysed, only seven more people failed.

Kent police, who recorded positive readings against one-in-eight people tested, against one-in-five last year, said: "The trend is encouraging and we hope it will continue. But the fact that some people are still prepared to ignore the law is unacceptable."

However the improved picture has failed to dent growing pressure from inside and outside Parliament for the police to be given wider powers to crack down on drink-driving, which caused 900 deaths in 1988, the latest year for which figures are available.

Mr Peter Joslin, Warwickshire's chief constable and the chairman of the Association of Chief Constables' traffic

Continued on page 2, col 5

World markets welcome Nineties with optimism

By Our Financial Staff

Share prices rose around the world and the pound gained on the foreign exchanges as London's financial markets greeted the new year with a show of optimism.

Starting was boosted by interviews with Mr John Major, the Chancellor, in which he made it clear the Government did not want further depreciation and that home-buyers could not expect to benefit from lower interest rates for some time.

The pound gained three

pennings against a weak mark, although it lost early gains against the dollar after the US currency recovered.

On the stock market, the FT-SE 100 share index rose by

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11.4 points to 2,434.1 after coming within a whisker of its all-time high of 2,443.4 early in the day.

Share prices also started the year higher in Frankfurt and New York.

Pregnancy no excuse to avoid prison, judge says

By Peter Davenport

Young women criminals could not hope to avoid prison sentences by deliberately becoming pregnant between the time they were arrested and when they appeared in court, Judge Pickles said yesterday. He made his comments when sending an unmarried teenage mother to prison after twice postponing sentence because he did not want to part her from her baby.

Judge Pickles told Wakefield Crown Court that he had been told by the prison authorities that if he sent Tracy Scott to custody she would go with her daughter, aged 10 weeks, to Styal Prison, Cheshire. "There will be no separation of mother and child," he said.

He sentenced Scott, aged 19, of

Longhill Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, to six months' youth custody. She had pleaded guilty on November 17 to 10 charges of theft at the store where she worked as a check-out operator. Then, Judge Pickles had asked for inquiries to be made as to whether she could take her baby to custody with her. He did not want to break the "loving bond" between mother and baby.

He was told that it could be 28 days before the baby could join the mother in prison. He said he was not satisfied and adjourned the case for further inquiries. A week later he was told that no mother and baby places were available. He again postponed sentence and suggested the matter be raised "at the highest level".

Mr John Winteller, prosecuting, said yesterday the thefts occurred while Scott

worked at a store at Huddersfield. She allowed people, some of whom were strangers, to take goods without paying. "She was clearly at the centre of the matter, but she helped police identify others involved," he added. Scott herself estimated that the store had lost goods worth about £4,000.

Miss Jill Bradshaw, defending, said the offences were committed more than a year ago. Scott had made no personal profit and had been subjected to some pressure to allow other women to take goods. She was misguided enough to think she could buy friendship.

"She has never sought to use her baby as a reason why she should be treated more leniently than some of the other women. She is a single parent and lives

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Judge Pickles: Did not want to separate mother and baby.

INSIDE

Temples of doom

● The Mayan civilization flourished for nearly 3,000 years, building an advanced culture before Europe had escaped from the Dark Ages. Now, the Mayan's temples and tombs are being ravaged by grave-robbers for the international art market: page 9

● There were five winners of yesterday's £22,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 23

ON SATURDAY



● The finest stately homes on water and fashions for the yachting set are featured in Saturday's 16-page full-colour supplement

Soviet-Iran border riot

Moscow (Reuters) — Crowds on the border between Soviet Azerbaijan and Iran on Sunday and again yesterday trampled border posts and burning an official complaint about Iranian border guards, Soviet television said.

A brief report on the main fighting news, said the riots were aimed at "complicating inter-ethnic relations", and were in the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan. Earlier report, page 7

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Britons in life or death decision

Two British families will today give a Sudanese court their life-or-death decisions on the fate of five Palestinian terrorists.

Under Islamic law, they were given the right to choose whether the Palestinians — who killed family members in a hotel attack — should be executed, ransomed or pardoned. Quaker aid workers Christopher and Clare Rolfe and their two children, Thomas, aged 3, and Louise, aged one, from Brighton, East Sussex, died in May 1988 when the Acropolis Hotel in Khartoum was bombed.

Sally Rockett, aged 32, a teacher, who worked for the charity World University Services, also died in the attack, along with two Sudanese.

When the court announced its decision last year, both families said because their relatives were Quakers and opposed to violence, they would not ask for the death penalty.

However, it is understood that the terrorists could still be executed if one of the Sudanese families requests it. The Foreign Office said yesterday that the views of the British families, which were regarded as sub judice, were ready to go before the court but it was not known if the Sudanese families had also submitted views.

Welsh college rethink

The Polytechnic of Wales will remain in local authority control after a U-turn by Mid-Glamorgan County Council yesterday. The polytechnic's future had been in the balance since last summer when two officials resigned over allegations of financial mismanagement. No charges were brought and the county abandoned plans for an independent inquiry, but it decided to hand over its entire administration to the Welsh Office. Yesterday, however, the county decided against pulling out and agreed to establish a new governing body to run the college from April.

Arts centre inquiry

An inquiry team yesterday began its investigation into the running of the Institute of Contemporary Arts in the wake of a dispute between its director, Mr Bill McAlister, its director, and his staff. The four-man inquiry team is headed by Mr Brian Wenham, chairman of the ICA advisory committee and former managing director of BBC Radio, who said: "There has clearly been a dispute but we are not going to operate as a kind of Aesop. We will be talking to as many layers of people in the ICA as is sensible and will report on how we think the place will be run in the 1990s."

£175,000 bright ideas

British Rail has paid a total of £175,000 to 5,000 staff who made suggestions to save money and improve efficiency (Robin Young writes). Mr Melvyn Dixon, a maintenance supervisor, is thought to have earned £3,800 with a scheme to synchronize replacing brake parts with general maintenance work, and the widow of Mr Willie Marshall, a former senior technical officer, received two awards of £400 for a design change he proposed to make lavatory doors more vandal-proof.

Athlete case remand

A man accused of indecently assaulting Miss Veronique Marot, the British women's marathon record holder, at the start of a race was yesterday remanded in custody for a week. Ted Adcock, aged 58, a joiner from Bedlington, Northumberland, is alleged to have fondled her on the breast as she warmed up for a road race between Morpeth and Newcastle upon Tyne on New Year's Day. Magistrates at Bedlington granted a prosecution request for a remand in custody.

Toxic drums alert

Plastic drums washed up on beaches in south-east Cornwall could contain dangerous chemicals, the fire brigade has warned (Libby Jukes writes). Almost 1,000 drums were recovered yesterday from beaches on a two-mile stretch of coast between Portwrinkle and Downderry. Although many were found to contain vegetable oil, Cornwall County Fire Brigade fears that some are contaminated. Coastguards are trying to discover the source of the drums.

Little sign of peace in Tory European battle

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

There was little sign of a healing of Conservative divisions over Europe yesterday as a senior Tory Euro-MP publicly attacked the Government's stance at the recent Strasbourg summit as "negative".

Mr Peter Price, the MEP for London South-East, was speaking on BBC Radio Four after it emerged that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was to meet all 32 Conservative MEPs at Downing Street later this month in an effort to close the gulf which has

opened up between them. Mr Price said: "The most important thing is to try to resolve the uncertainty about Government policy on Europe and Mrs Thatcher's own view of it, which has been in some doubt over the past 18 months as a result of speeches she has made."

"The policy, as demonstrated very recently at the Strasbourg summit, has been a negative one."

Mr Price called on the Prime Minister to show more enthusiasm for integrationist measures and said that he was speaking for the Tory

group in Europe, who all supported a common European currency.

His charges were swiftly rejected by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, clearly keen to played down the differences: "The gap can be bridged," he said.

Mr Baker welcomed moves to establish a better working relationship but warned that it was important for MEPs to understand the Government's position.

"The enthusiasm for the single market stems from Margaret Thatcher's initiatives in 1983 and

1984. The policy of the Government is very clear on Europe. There is a strong and enthusiastic commitment to the single market. As regards the European monetary system, we have made clear that it is not whether, but when, we join."

However, the Government had reservations about moves towards federalism and implied that it was the Conservative Group in Strasbourg, and not the Government, which was out of step. "There is no majority for a federal Europe in the Conservative Party, in the House of

Commons or in the country."

The Tory group is due to meet Mr Baker next week. He is also planning two further visits to Strasbourg in the coming weeks.

Tory MEPs did detect a change in tone in the Prime Minister's approach at the Strasbourg summit, but are concerned about the difference between action and words. Mr Price welcomed the more conciliatory tone, but pointed out that the substance was that Britain voted in a minority of 11 to one on the two main issues under discussion.

Council puts alternative ambulances on the road

By Craig Seton

The first alternative ambulance service to be established by a council during the 16-week pay dispute began operating yesterday from a municipal depot in Sandwell, West Midlands.

The Labour-controlled Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, which covers a population of 295,000 in West Bromwich and Smethwick, is paying for six reconditioned, former NHS ambulances which are manned by volunteer professional ambulance-men and women.

Yesterday the first two vehicles, hired from a northern firm which specializes in refurbishing ambulances, were "launched" at the council's maintenance depot, where a prefabricated building is to be used 24 hours a day as a temporary control centre for "Sandwell Ambulance Line". The telephone number (021-569-6666) is to be advertised in libraries, community centres, local hospitals, GPs' surgeries and other places.

Unions representing ambulance officers involved in the pay dispute are holding talks with the neighbouring Labour-controlled authorities of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Coventry in an attempt to persuade them to follow Sandwell's example in providing an alternative service.

Sandwell's decision means that patients in the borough could receive transport from the alternative service, regular ambulances manned by staff who have returned to work, the Army, the police, the Red Cross or the St John Am-

bulance Brigade. The council, advised by ambulance officers, has equipped the vehicles and claims that as they will be manned by trained ambulance crews, they will be able to carry out normal functions, including calls to accidents and other emergencies.

Mr Peter McArdle, a representative for the five ambulance stations in Sandwell, said yesterday that during each eight-hour shift, at least 12 ambulance officers would be available for unpaid, voluntary duty.

Mr Ron Davis, leader of Sandwell council, said: "Our number one priority is to make sure that services are available to the people of Sandwell. It is an on-going thing and we do not yet know what the full financial implications will be."

● Ambulance unions are preparing for a crucial meeting at TUC headquarters in London to decide how to step up their campaign for an improved pay offer (Mark Souster writes).

Officials want to increase political pressure on the Government through sympathetic Conservative backbenchers which they believe will ultimately force concessions.

To that end two letters were made public yesterday, one from Mrs Thatcher when she was opposition leader, and the second from Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, both of which indicated support for ambulance men. They hope these will embarrass the Government back to negotiations.

Testimony to new year terror

PAUL FAITH



A Royal Ulster Constabulary man surveying the wreckage of the car booby-trapped by the IRA that exploded yesterday morning in the Sydenham area of East Belfast, killing Mr Harold Dickey, aged 37, a taxi driver, and injuring his daughter.

Chess tournament

Russian scalp puts Scot in control

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Colin McNab, the international chess master, added a further scalp to his already impressive list of successes in the sixth round of the challengers section of the Foreign and Colonial chess tournament last night.

McNab utterly demolished Alex Wojtkiewicz, the former Soviet international master, in 40 moves. Playing fiercely and confidently with the white pieces, he sacrificed material to crash through with a horde of pawns.

In a desperate time scramble, Wojtkiewicz lost his nerve, committed several errors and proceeded to lose all of his pieces under the heavy attack.

McNab, of Dundee, has the outstanding score of five-and-a-half points from six games and has consolidated his lead ahead of a host of masters and Grand-

masters from the United States and eastern and western Europe.

Joseph Gallagher, the young Wimbledon player, defeated James Plaskett, the Bedford grandmaster, to take sole second place with five points, well on the road to achieving his second norm for a grandmaster title.

Sharing third place on four-and-a-half points are Patrick Wolff, of the US, Jan Sorensen, of Denmark, Mark Hebden and Tony Kosten, of England, and Milton Sher, of the Soviet Union.

In a surprise result, Robin Moss, the Hastings amateur, drew his game with Ivan Fargno, the Hungarian grandmaster and former Hungarian champion.

In the grandmaster section of the tournament, being played at the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings, East Sussex, all

the games yesterday ended in draws after stern struggles.

Murray Chandler of England drew with Boris Gulko of US after a Roy Lopez opening; Michael Adams, aged 18, the British champion and youngest chess grandmaster, held Artur Yusupov, the Soviet world championship semi finalist, also in a Roy Lopez opening.

Predrag Nikolic, of Yugoslavia, drew with Sergei Dolmatov, of the Soviet Union, in a Dutch defence while Jonathan Speelman drew with Kevin Spraggett, the dual Commonwealth champion, in a king's Indian defence.

Full scores after five rounds of the Grandmaster section are: Nikolic, 3½ pts; Gulko and Dolmatov, 3; Spraggett and Adams, 2½; Yusupov and Speelman, 2; Chandler, 1½.

New calls for random tests

Continued from page 1

committee, accepted the figures would be seen by some as a sign that police did not need greater powers but he claimed this reaction was foolhardy.

He said: "There is no doubt we are having a big impact on drink-driving but it currently takes a lot of police resources to enforce the law. Unfettered discretion to administer tests would be a much better deterrent."

Mr David Marshall, Labour MP for Glasgow Shettleston and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Transport, said patients for drink-driving should be increased to include life bans on driving and longer jail terms.

"Twelve months or 18 months for a drink-driver who kills someone is ridiculous. There is not much difference between someone who goes out in a car and kills a person having drunk too much and the person who kills deliberately with a shotgun," he said.

The Home Office, which early last year began a review of whether random breath testing should be introduced, said the issue remained under "active review".

BREATH TESTS FORCE BY FORCE

	Total tests	Positive tests
	1988	1989
Avon and Somerset	499	718
Beds	341	381
Cambs (Dec 5-Jan 2)	4,281	2,750
Cheshire	415	833
City of London	n/a	n/a
Cleveland	311	332
Cumbria	414	450
Derby	1,041	1,241
Devon and Cornwall	1,294	2,158
Dorset	478	384
Durham	172	504
Dyfed-Powys	139	551
Essex	1,122	1,808
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a
Gtr Manchester	1,107	1,117
Gwent	n/a	n/a
Hants	n/a	n/a
Herts	844	899
Humberdale (firm 22.12.89)	785	580
Kent	641	1,269
Lincs	1,293	2,072
Lincoln (Dec 4-Jan 2)	1,559	1,711
Lincs	631	1,138
Merseyside	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan	10,537	15,248
Notts	n/a	7,395
Northants	n/a	805
Nth Wales	n/a	1,737
Nth Yorks	n/a	n/a
Notts	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	n/a	n/a
Sh Wales	388	796
Sh Yorks	1,012	1,151
Staffs	800	698
Suffolk	n/a	n/a
Sussex	757	943
Thames Valley	n/a	1,120
Warwick	n/a	n/a
West Mercia	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	616	571
West Yorks	n/a	n/a
Wilt	n/a	n/a

Figures for the period 0800 December 19 to 0800 Jan 1 unless otherwise stated.

Labour's reform bid attacked

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

The Labour Party's plans for radical constitutional reform, including abolition of the House of Lords, were dismissed as a "gerrymander's charter" by a Home Office minister yesterday.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the absence of costings or details showed that ideas such as the creation of regional assemblies had not been properly thought out.

Labour policymakers' plans for the electoral system were "a gerrymander's charter, which, as well as creating an in-built bias, would be at the taxpayers' considerable expense", he said in a message to the National Association of Conservative Graduates.

Mr Patten said that Labour had proposed to abolish the Lords and replace it with a new second chamber, to create regional assemblies and to abolish county councils without giving more than the merest hint of the new assemblies functions and costs.

"Starting, it seems, from the sole premise that they want an electoral system with an in-built bias, they have set out to redesign the constitutional framework that has served our governments — including Labour governments — perfectly well in the past," Mr Patten said.

CORRECTION

The former King Constantine of Greece was referred to as Mr Constantine Glucksburg in a report from Athens on December 30. The report did not make clear that this name is usually applied by his political opponents.

Kinnock message to Russia

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock urged the Soviet people to show "steadiness of spirit" rather than impatience in the search for reform during a new year broadcast across the USSR.

The Labour leader said that advance and change would "be more certain and solid" if it were taken steadily rather than rushed.

Mr Kinnock, who is to visit Moscow for talks with President Gorbachev on January 16, said that nowhere would the opportunities and challenges of the new year or decade be greater than in the Soviet Union.

He hailed the changes taking place as having inspired progress elsewhere, both in the states of the Warsaw Pact and in the relationships between

peoples and governments of East and West.

The leader of the Opposition said: "But change does not of course come by itself. As you know very well it brings with it new problems to solve. In solving them the great strength which you have shown in war and peace is going to be put to one of its greatest tests."

Clearly aware of the great challenge and pressures facing the Soviet leader, Mr Kinnock cautioned the Soviet people about the disadvantages of rushing ahead too quickly.

"The natural mood of the Russian people now is naturally one of impatience to get on with making more political, economic, industrial and democratic reforms and

improvements at maximum speed."

"All that I can say," Mr Kinnock added, "is that I am certain that if the people of all parts of the Soviet Union show the great steadiness of spirit that you have shown so many times in the past, your advance will be more certain and more solid than it can be if it is rushed."

Meanwhile, Mr John Morris, the Shadow attorney-general, left London yesterday for a visit to Hong Kong. He has been invited by the Bar and Law Society in Hong Kong to examine the proposals in the second draft of the Basic Law.

During his four-day visit he will meet Sir David Wilson, the Governor, and hold talks with other officials.

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MP 'smashed up his ex-lover's flat and stole her underwear'

By David Sapped

The Labour MP, Ron Brown, smashed windows, mirrors and glasses in his former lover's flat after she rejected his appeal to leave her new boyfriend and start afresh with him, Lewes Crown Court was told yesterday.

He was later stopped by police at a railway station and found to have two pairs of the woman's knickers and some of her jewellery in his raincoat, Mr Richard Camden Pratt, said for the prosecution.

Mr Brown, the 49-year-old MP for Edinburgh, Leith, denies causing nearly £800 criminal damage to Mrs Nona Longden's flat in Charles Road, St Leonards. He also denies stealing the underwear, a brooch, a watch, a picture frame and earrings.

His wife, May, sat in the public gallery yesterday as Mrs Longden, aged 39, described her three-year relationship with the MP. The couple had lived together in Mr Brown's flat in Brighton during the week. At weekends, Mr Brown returned to his wife in Edinburgh and Mrs Longden went home to St Leonards. The arrangement continued until they split up last March.

Mrs Longden said Mr Brown had called at her flat

on April 25, on his way from the TUC at Eastbourne to a 10 o'clock vote in the Commons.

Mr Brown gave Mrs Longden £5 to buy a bottle of wine and left, returning at about 6.30 pm, by which time her new boyfriend, Mr Dermot Redmond had arrived. "I was sitting beside Mr Redmond when Mr Brown returned," Mrs Longden said. "Mr Redmond said something to the effect that he had been drinking and ought to leave."

The MP did not go, and Mrs Longden agreed to talk in private, but the MP's speech was sturred and he was "so incoherent I gave up after five minutes," she said. "He asked if I would go back to London and start a new life with him in a new flat."

Mrs Longden said she and Mr Redmond decided to go out to give Mr Brown time to "sleep it off". As they went, a glass was hurled after them.

When the couple got to the street, they heard the sound of breaking glass from the flat and called the police. By the time the police arrived, the MP had gone and nearly everything of glass had been broken, Mr Pratt said. When the slivers of a broken mirror were put together, the word

"Love" was "rather pathetically" found scrawled on it.

When Mr Brown was arrested at the station, he was carrying a picture of Mrs Longden as a baby in his coat, Mr Pratt said. At Hastings police station, the underwear and jewellery were found in his pockets.

Mr Pratt said the MP told the police that Mr Redmond had "gone for him". According to the MP's account, more than half a dozen window panes, mirrors and pictures in the bedroom, kitchen and living room had been smashed as he ducked to avoid bottles and glasses thrown at him.

Under cross-examination by Mr Edward Rees, for the defence, Mrs Longden agreed that the affair had been "fizzling out" after details of their relationship had become public knowledge.

She also agreed that, after the break-up of their affair, Mr Brown had entertained her and Mr Redmond amicably in the Strangers' Bar at the Commons and had bought them opera tickets.

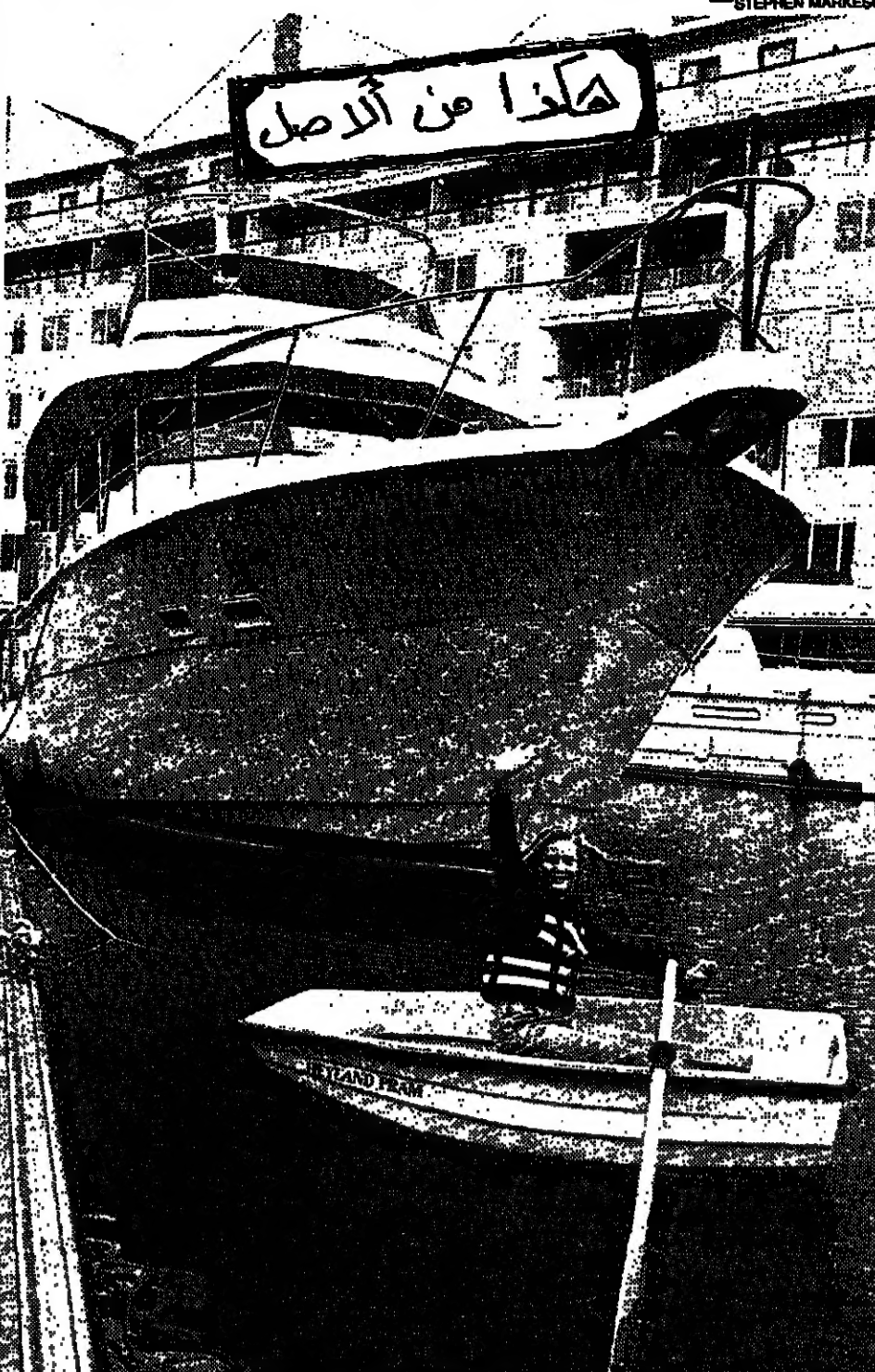
Mr Rees suggested that Mrs Longden had some politically sensitive tapes and that when Mr Brown had called last April it was to try to get them back. "You were using them as a bargaining counter for some continuing financial support," Mr Rees suggested.

Mrs Longden denied any knowledge of any tapes, and laughed at a suggestion that she had wrapped them in her knickers and put them in Mr Brown's pockets.

But she agreed that Mr Brown had paid some of her bills during their affair and that since they had split up, she relied on social security and her parents for income. She denied suggesting to Mr Brown that she could sell her story of their relationship to the popular press.

The case continues today.

Giant and the Tadpole



The range of this year's Boat Show, which starts at Earl's Court, west London, tomorrow, is illustrated above. The largest and most expensive exhibit, the 70ft Hatteras 70, towers above the smallest and cheapest boat in the show, the Heyland Tadpole (Robin Young writes). The Hatteras 70 is a luxurious motor cruiser which sells at about £1 million with the final price depending on the costliness of the fittings. The Tadpole is just 6ft long and is a

Amnesiac link to Scandinavia business crime

By Ruth Gledhill

The English-speaking man found wandering in northern France with apparent memory loss has been identified.

The Foreign Office in London said he was a British-born Danish national and that British consular staff were no longer involved.

Scandinavian police were talking to their French counterparts about a man missing in connection with alleged business crimes.

The middle-aged man, who has not been named, was taken to Abberville Hospital a week ago after a passer-by spotted him climbing out of the River Somme. He said his name could be Richard Cross, or Jackson, but he had no identification papers, luggage or car.

Essex police confirmed that he was the same man who arrived in Harwich on a ferry from Gothenburg, Sweden, on December 19, claiming total memory loss. He was taken to Severalls Hospital in Colchester, but discharged himself after one day.

He also fits the description of a man who emerged from a canal in Calais on Christmas Eve, who was taken to hospital and who discharged himself the next day.

Chief Inspector James Kynnersley, of Harwich police, said: "The fact that he's found his way to France after apparently losing his memory might suggest that he's not an amnesiac at all. I think he does not want anyone to know who he is."

Police in France are also searching for a British couple driving a car with number plates from Bouches du Rhone in the South of France,

who stopped in Abberville to ask for petrol shortly after the man was found. The man had told police he remembered being in Aix en Provence, which is in the Bouches du Rhone department.

Memory loss may be a psychological reaction to stress or the result of physical injury to the brain (Our Science Editor writes).

Professor Alan Baddeley, of the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Research Unit, at Cambridge, said the short-term nature of most cases of psychogenic amnesia had limited research into the subject.

Scientists could not explain how part of the memory might be shut down selectively and temporarily to dismiss painful or horrific memories. Most experience had come from survivors of frightful accidents or acts of violence.

However, a clear distinction could be made clinically between long-term amnesia caused by head injury and illnesses - including alcohol abuse, malnutrition, strokes, oxygen starvation and carbon monoxide poisoning - and the psychogenic type.

Scientists believe that memories are made of connections established between brain cells and patterns of chemical molecules. The idea is based on the degree and type of memory loss observed when particular parts of the brain are damaged.

That can be used to explain why people remember how to ride a bicycle, get dressed or that they like sugar in tea when they forget a recently-learned or little-used map route.

Personal stereo warning

By Nicholas Watt

Personal stereos can be as loud as a pneumatic drill with damage to the ears at first going unnoticed, according to a report published yesterday by the National Deaf Children's Society.

The society tested seven models at Manchester University, using music by Mahler and the rock group Iron Maiden, and found peak levels exceeded 90 decibels in all but one case.

The survey said: "One could compare 100 decibels with the noise made by a pneumatic drill, while 140 decibels is the physical threshold of pain." Permanent damage to hearing would be cumulative.

Mr Harry Cayton, director of the society, said children were at greater risk than adults because a child's ear was smaller, increasing the pressure on the ear drum. He recommended a legal limit on power output.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Five share £2,000 winnings

Five shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mr William Hyde, aged 69, a retired accountant and former bursar of Oxford University, of Ducklington, Oxfordshire, said his win "came out of the blue". He said his wife would use the money to do up their sitting room with new curtains.

Mr William Googe, aged 78, a retired bank worker, of the Isle of Wight, said: "The win is very gratifying, but I haven't got a clue what to do with the money."

The other winners were Mr Stanley Vince, of London; Mr Francis McLaughlin, of Bournemouth; and Mrs J MacDonald, of Richmond, south-west London.

Man jailed after dog injured couple on order of 'kill'

By Mark Smeater

The owner of an American pit bull terrier who commanded the dog to attack two people after a dispute at a party was jailed for six months yesterday.

Kenneth Aymer, aged 22, ordered the vicious pit bull, which had taken part in numerous illegal dog fights, to "kill, kill, kill".

Southwark Crown Court was told that the dog, which weighed six stone, caused horrific flesh wounds to Miss Mary Hypocrate and Mr Rene Marcell, her boyfriend.

The dog, named Apollo, had to be beaten off with a baseball bat before it would release its grip. Miss Hypocrate was in hospital for eight days with a badly ripped calf muscle.

Judge Butler, QC, said the

jury had based its conviction on the finding that the dog was being used as a weapon.

In passing sentence, the judge told Aymer: "This was an act of violence and I have to look at it as if the defendant had caused the injuries with an instrument. He caused the

dog to attack the victims and even used the word kill. That is very significant."

"When I look at the injuries sustained, I have to consider that it really is a very serious matter. This was a serious act of violence and in my judgement an immediate custodial

sentence has to be passed," Judge Butler said.

Aymer, of Shadwell Street, Poplar, east London, was found guilty of one charge of causing grievous bodily harm and acquitted of a second because of lack of evidence.

The incident occurred on December 28, 1988, when Aymer went to the party in Teviot Street, Poplar, after a telephone call from his sister who said she and her brother had been attacked. Aymer and a youth worker for the Inner London Education Authority took the dog and a baseball bat for protection in anticipation of trouble, Mr John Haines, prosecuting, said.

The dog first sprang at Miss Hypocrate, aged 33, locking its jaws onto her leg. She told the court: "My leg went numb. I screamed in agony. It started

to rip my flesh. There was flesh on the floor." Her calf muscle was torn apart and needed numerous stitches.

The dog next turned on Mr Marcell, aged 32, as Aymer gave the command to "kill". At first, Mr Marcell beat off the dog with the baseball bat. Aymer had dropped and chased after him. But Aymer suddenly stopped, freed Apollo from its lead again and ordered it to attack.

The dog, with blood dripping from its mouth, sank its teeth deep into Mr Marcell's thigh, ripping apart the main muscle and exposing fats. Rescuers beat it off with the bat and it was later destroyed.

Miss Hypocrate condemned the sentence as inadequate: "He's going to be free when I'm still in pain." Mr Marcell said: "This is ridiculous. What



Miss Hypocrate and Mr Marcell: victims of pit bull terrier.

Increase in Rushdie protests

By Ruth Gledhill

Muslim leaders said yesterday that they plan to begin this year with an intensive campaign against *The Satanic Verses*, whose author, Mr Salman Rushdie, remains in hiding with police protection.

Mr Sher Azam, president of the Council for Mosques in Bradford, said that a five-day vigil would begin outside the London headquarters of the publisher, Viking Penguin, next Monday.

Muslims will also picket its offices in Bradford, Birmingham, Glasgow, Cardiff and the East Midlands.

Details of a further mass protest are expected to be announced next week.

Another body, the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, plans to express disagreement with the late Ayatollah Khomeini's death threat against Mr Rushdie by holding a conference in London to call for freedom of expression.

Sales figures defy gloomy forecasts

By Suzy Price

Department store managers are predicting record takings from the winter sales, which have been running for a week, in spite of gloomy pre-Christmas forecasts.

Undaunted by high interest rates, bargain-hunters have been spending heavily, particularly on fashion and electrical goods.

Traders in the West End of London reported hectic business, although the Oxford Street Association blamed Westminster City Council's lord mayor's parade for reduced New Year's Day sales.

Mr Harry Shepherd, director of the association, said: "I think sales will be marginally up. People are now buying for themselves rather than other people."

Business at Marks and Spencer's 288 stores was better than at the same time last year. Sales of men's and women's wear at the 40 branches of Austin Reed exceeded estimates and were at

least on a par with last year. John Lewis reported that the sales were going well, although none of its 23 stores opened on New Year's Day. Liberty in Regent Street said takings were up 10 per cent on last year, with fashions, scarves and fabrics selling well. Menswear and women's coats were selling particularly well at Debenhams branches.

Most departments at Selfridges in Oxford Street were trading well. Mr Bob Ager, marketing director, said sales on the first day, a week ago, were up by 10 per cent on last year.

C&A, which has 110 branches, began its sale in England on Monday and in Scotland yesterday. A spokeswoman said the company was pleased by the response so far.

House of Fraser, which has 65 stores trading under 16 names, including Army and Navy, Binn's and Rackhams, is looking forward to a record sales period.

Fair employment body for Ulster

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Northern Ireland's new Fair Employment Commission, which the Government believes will effectively tackle a continued imbalance in employment between Protestants and Roman Catholics, was officially launched yesterday.

The Government hopes that powers under the new Act - including, for the first time, "affirmative action" - will give the commission sufficiently sharp legislative teeth to combat discrimination in employment practices and force employers to comply with its directives.

Mr Robert Cooper, chairman of the commission, said that the legislation was exciting and imaginative.

"Inequality of opportunity and inequality in Northern Ireland has long been one of the most intractable problems," he said. "We now have legislation which will help us to tackle the problems in a very sensitive, sensible and meaningful way." The new

commission retains the powers of its predecessor, the Fair Employment Agency, but has a range of new sanctions available to it.

Employers will be required to register with the commission, to monitor their work forces, and to review regularly employee composition, recruitment, training and promotion practices.

The commission can set goals and timetables for companies to remedy under-representation in the workforce. Companies found guilty of "bad practice" can be banned from holding public authority contracts or receiving government grants.

Ultimately, the commission can take a company to court, where it could face fines up to £30,000, or support an individual complainant in proceedings under a new Fair Employment Tribunal which can award compensation against employers of up to £30,000.

Not so naughty holidays in nineties for the young

By Shona Crawford Poole

Lager lofts are out, and couples are in for the not-so-naughty nineties, according to Club 18-30, the holiday company catering for the youth market best known for its mass market

hotels. Market research carried out among 25,000 young customers, whose average age has risen from 20½ to 22 years, shows that two in five clients

seek managerial or supervisory clerical jobs and 14 per cent are nurses, teachers or have other professional occupations. The findings dictate a

more sober, upmarket image for the company, which is part of the International Leisure Group.

Mr Pete Williams, sales and marketing director, said: "The preconceived idea of the typical Club 18-30 client as male, 19 years old, usually wearing Union Jack shorts, and generally labelled a lager loft is a thing of the past."

The firm is also having to change tack in accepting no bookings from large, single-sex groups. For the first time, it is putting together summer holiday packages for couples who do not want the company of action-seeking singles or of families with

children. They will be accommodated in quieter hotels away from the main resorts.

Although the company's research shows that fewer than one in five of its customers has mortgage repayments to consider when making holiday plans, bookings for next summer are reported to be down by as much as 40 per cent.

Thomson, Britain's largest tour operator, began its own Freestyle brand to compete with Club 18-30 for the youth market, but dropped it at the end of its fourth season. The International Leisure Group's chief competitor for young holidaymakers is

the Twenties label in the Owners Abroad group. Mr John Boyle, its director, said: "This market is very, very young. Many of these holiday-makers have to get parental permission to book, and if they are planning to go away with an outfit which has a reputation for bonking and booze, they are not going to get that permission."

Club 18-30 and Twenties had fewer people arrested in Ibiza last summer than companies that do not offer the supervision of trained representatives that the specialist operators do. We both got letters of thanks from the Mayor of San Antonio."

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Airlines hoping to double 1989 total of 1.1bn passengers

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The number of passengers who travelled by air last year was 1.1 billion — almost 50 per cent higher than in 1980 — and the number is expected to double in the next decade.

Figures produced by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) yesterday show that after virtually no growth in 1980 and 1981, the number of people who travelled on scheduled services grew throughout the decade, reaching a peak increase of 7 per cent in 1986 and 1987.

At the beginning of the decade oil prices had rocketed, sending fuel costs soaring and the world's economy — and the number of people travelling — plummeting.

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian Airways, said that "Recession is when you have to tighten your belt. Depression is when you have no belt left to tighten. And when your trousers are around your ankles you are in the airline business."

In Britain, the state-owned British Airways was plunging further and further into debt, and in 1981 the airline recorded a loss of £454 million.

The Americans, who decided that if airlines were free to fend for themselves in a deregulated environment prices would tumble and competition would increase were proved spectacularly wrong. In practice, the smaller airlines were gradually swallowed up by their larger and

richer rivals until the handful of giant airlines was able to dictate prices and timetables at will.

The European airlines, co-opted by rigid protectionism and IATA's price-fixing cartel, were suddenly confronted with American expansion in their heartland.

Britain, which had privatized British Airways, led the way in putting pressure on Europe to relax its strict controls over airlines, the routes they could fly, the prices they could charge and the number of flights they could operate.

Many other nations, horrified by what had happened in

Multi-national giants will control the main routes

the US, resisted strongly, however, arguing that their national carriers would go into terminal decline unless strict regulations were in force to protect them from the more rapacious competitors. They have proved to be a brake on the headlong rush to American-style deregulation.

Now oil prices are stable, costs are under control, and the world economy is still growing strongly.

From overall losses of £6 billion in 1981, the world's airlines are making combined profits of more than £2 billion a year. The future has never looked rosier for the industry. More aircraft are on order

than manufacturers can cope with. Engines are more fuel efficient, quieter and more powerful than was dreamed of 10 years ago.

The boom in demand, however, has not been matched by an increase in capacity, either in the air or on the ground, leading to fears that when demand outstrips supply, market forces will lead to higher prices.

Airlines are worried that the moves towards European liberalization will bring an even greater increase in demand for air travel that they will not be able to meet, simply because there are no more slots available at airports and the air traffic control system could not cope if there were.

By 1999 there will almost certainly be fewer airlines. "Globalization" is the key word, meaning that multi-nationally owned carriers will be able to provide a seamless round-the-world system operating out of main hub airports. There will, however, be room for some smaller carriers.

It will be more expensive to fly from East Midlands airport to Glasgow than from Heathrow to Glasgow from next month under fare increases proposed by British Midland Airways.

The East Midlands-based airline, which has traditionally led the way in low-cost, high-quality services on domestic air routes, has been given approval to raise 32 fares an average of 7 per cent.

National awards for modernist architects

GRAHAM WOOD



Winners and their work: the former Billingsgate fish market (left) converted to a bank headquarters by Richard Rogers (top right), and Richmond House, new headquarters for the Department of Health at Whitehall, by William Whitfield. They are among 16 national winners announced by the RIBA today.

By Charles Kneivitt and Robin Young

Two buildings by controversial modernist architectural practices have been "called in" to receive national awards announced today by the Royal Institute of British Architects, although they were denied regional awards in the preliminary judging.

The buildings are the Merseyside Tate Gallery at Albert Dock, Liverpool, by James Stirling, Michael Wilford and Associates; and the Solid

State Logic headquarters at Oxford, by Michael Hopkins and Partners.

RIBA rules permit juries judging for national awards to call in buildings they consider of special merit, even if they were not regional winners.

Mr Hopkins wins another award for a circular cadbury factory built for David Mellor in Hathersage, Derbyshire.

The other winners are: the Courts of Justice at Truro, Cornwall, by Eldred Evans and David Stiller; Richmond House, Whitehall, central London, by

the Property Services Agency and William Whitfield; the Chicago bank building, converted from the former Billingsgate Market in the City of London by Richard Rogers; Nicholas Grimshaw's "transparent" printing works for the Financial Times in east London; the Ecotechnology Centre, Cranfield in Bedfordshire by Chamberlain, Powell, Bos & Woods; Howard House, Kentish Town, north-west London, by Joanna van Heyningen and Barkis Howard; Homerton Hospital and Education Centre, east

London, by YRM Architects and Planners; Kings Meadow, Chester by Annett Associates; Millpond, Chalfont, Devon, by Allen van der Steen Associates; the Nelson Mandela Community Primary School, Birmingham, by the city architect, W G Reed; court offices and library at Lebbury, Herefordshire by William G McCarran; the headquarters of Next, at Enderby, Leicestershire, by ORMIS Designers and Architects; and TSB Scotland, St Andrews, by Nicol Russell Studio.

Carrington home theft charges

A car dealer has been charged with stealing property worth £250 at Lord Carrington's home at Chelsea, west London, in the early hours of New Year's Eve.

Mr Gary Robertson, aged 31, of Islington, north London, was remanded on £10,000 bail at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

He is charged with stealing two sets of cufflinks, three keys, foreign currency and jewellery. Lord Carrington was not at home at the time.

Marriage over

Sir Edward du Cann, aged 65, chairman of Lorrho, and his wife, Sallie, aged 50, were divorced yesterday after 27 years of marriage.

Patient dies

Melanie Gold, aged 16, of Yarncombe, Devon, died at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, on New Year's Eve, a year after undergoing a heart and lung transplant.

Reptiles stolen

Police were hunting thieves yesterday who escaped with a haul of 34 reptiles worth £1,200, including a 6ft boa constrictor, in a raid on a pet shop at Mersham, Surrey.

Pyjama escape

A pyjama-clad Egyptian, who, hours earlier was refused entry into Britain, has vanished from Buckland Hospital, Dover, where he was sent after convincing immigration officials he was ill.

Reform of tax and benefits Democrats call for nursery vouchers

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Workers with children under school age would be provided with child-care vouchers by their employers as part of proposals by the Liberal Democrats for extensive changes to the taxation and benefits system.

The treatment, for taxation purposes, of workplace nurseries as a perk would be ended and employees, including single parents, would use the voucher to pay for child care in nurseries anywhere.

A flexible retirement age would let people choose when to retire between the ages of 60 and 70.

Under changes proposed by Mr Paddy Ashdown's party, everyone aged between 16 and 65 would receive £10-a-week citizen's income, irrespective of sex, marital status, income or employment. A low-income benefit would replace income support, family credit and unemployment benefit.

The elderly would receive pensions tax free. The creation of a registered savings account would allow all types of savings to get equal amounts of tax relief.

A broad income tax would be introduced as a single tax on spending capacity, replacing income tax, national insurance contributions, capital gains tax and inheritance tax. Lady Sear, who chaired the working group that drew up the proposals, said that

they were the most radical for reform of taxation and social security.

She said: "We propose a system which is much less complicated, yet a system that is also much fairer. It is neither a proposal for targeting all benefits nor a proposal for universalizing benefits."

With increases expected in the number of working women and in the number of elderly, the proposals on child care and retirement outlined in a document, *Common Benefit*, are clearly aimed at both sectors of the electorate.

Lady Sear said the proposals would redistribute wealth within families, mainly towards women.

The Liberal Democrats propose an increase in the basic state pension from £48 for a single person aged over 65, a £1-a-week rise in child benefit, which would be linked to inflation, and abolition of the lower rate of income support for those aged under 25.

The party would also end the obligation on everybody to pay 20 per cent of the community charge. All income above the first £20 a week, and apart from the citizen's payment, would be liable to tax.

There would be an additional tax rate of 50 per cent, starting at about £50,000 a year, and a rate of 25 per cent for pensioners with incomes of about £17,000 a year.

Minister hails heritage as nation's finest asset

By Simon Tait Arts Correspondent

Heritage is Britain's biggest asset and the Government aims to increase access to historic buildings, Mr David Trippier, Minister for the Environment, said yesterday.

Mr Trippier, in one of his first newspaper interviews since his appointment as minister responsible for heritage, said: "I would like to see the built heritage — the magnificent historic buildings in the public domain — feature in the forthcoming White Paper on the environment."

"We believe that the built heritage is an integral part of the overall environment, and I

don't think people realize that we want to address that directly. We actually think it's our most priceless asset."

Mr Trippier took up his enhanced role in the summer. His junior is Lord Heskestad. It is the first time that there have been two heritage ministers.

Mr Trippier supported a controversial proposal by the Royal Armouries, the national museum of arms and armour, to open a branch in the United States, possibly in Boston, which would show some of its finest pieces to raise funds.

Critics have attacked the scheme for taking one of Britain's principal treasures out of the country. However,

Mr Trippier said: "First, the Armouries have more stock than they could possibly put on display at one time. Secondly, if you are going to show those items abroad, it can act

as a magnet to attract more people to come over here."

He said: "In my day as tourism minister, there were only about 12 per cent of the entire American population that had passports and had actually been abroad, so there is a massive market."

"Heritage is our biggest national asset and I would regard it as an investment on the part of the Armouries to go there."

Mr Trippier said the Government was conscious of a new awareness of historic buildings. "We welcome the recognition given to the built heritage and I think it's very important that we assist that particular growth," he said.

"What I'm particularly keen on is presenting our national assets to the general public in a more attractive way. We now have three million visitors to the historic royal palaces."

"The new agency I launched a few weeks ago, which has special responsibility for the palaces, will give priority to increasing numbers. English Heritage properties attract five million visitors a year, compared with three million in 1987."

However, he said he was watching carefully a trend towards heritage theme parks, whereby monuments were used purely as tourism attractions with their histories sometimes distorted.

Employers accused of job bias against offenders

By Quentin Cowdry Home Affairs Correspondent

Most employers are prejudiced against hiring offenders, according to early results of a national survey of employers by the Apex Trust, a charity which promotes job opportunities for offenders.

The trust said yesterday that the survey would show that most employers were ignorant of the legislation, which gives some offenders the right not to disclose spent convictions when applying for jobs, joining organizations or taking out insurance.

It said that the few employers who had some understanding of the law had gleaned information by accident rather than from official sources and it urged the Government to launch a

campaign to publicize the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, which is designed to protect from discrimination people with spent convictions.

The survey is also expected to show that many employers covered by the exemption clauses of the Act interpret this to mean that they do not have to offer offenders work, when, in fact, they have the right only to insist that spent convictions are disclosed.

Other research by the trust indicates that more than 90 per cent of employers are ignorant of the Act.

"Taken together, it is not surprising that offenders, particularly those just out of prison, suffer job discrimination," Mr Andrew McCall, the trust's campaigns' officer, said. "We think the Government should launch a major drive to raise awareness of the Act. Just leaving leaflets in Citizens'

Advice Bureaux is not good enough." Probation Service surveys show that offenders suffer disproportionately from unemployment.

In Greater Manchester, for example, employment rates among the service's clients are, on average, five times higher than for the general population, while in some parts of Avon and Somerset they can be more than 10 times higher.

The trust and the National Council for Civil Liberties believe that there is a strong case for the Act, at present limited to offenders sentenced to any punishment up to 30 months' imprisonment, to be extended.

However, with ministers unwilling to take such a radical step, they hope to press the Government into increasing the effectiveness of the present legislation. Under the Act, someone

disclosing a person's spent conviction is, with certain exceptions, liable to criminal prosecution, though in the 15 years since the offence was created not one case has come to court.

"This is plainly absurd, as we know unauthorized disclosure occurs regularly, but it is very difficult to prove, particularly as some victims do not even realize they are being wronged," Mr McCall said.

The Act says that spent convictions may be taken into account where an offender is seeking employment in a range of professions, including medicine, nursing and the law, or wants to become a policeman, teacher or join the Armed Services.

Employers in these fields may use an undisclosed spent conviction as legitimate grounds for refusing employment or even for dismissal.

Police air force plan studied

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The possibility of setting up a national police air force is to be examined in an independent study commissioned by the Home Office, some of whose senior officials firmly back the idea.

The Home Office said yesterday the review would establish the most cost-effective way in which helicopters and other aircraft might be provided for Britain's 54 police forces, many of whom could not afford full-time air units.

However, the Association of County Councils described the study as unnecessary. "Forces have evaluated shared facilities and found that they are neither effective nor

value for money," Mr Geoffrey Waters, chairman of the association's police committee, said. "That is why they have gone for their own equipment."

Some chief constables and council officials think the Home Office is prejudiced in favour of a national unit, which would echo other centralizing moves in recent years affecting the structure of the police force. That suggestion has been firmly rejected by the department.

"A centrally-funded unit is a sensible option, but it is only one of a number that will be looked at," a spokesman said. In October, the department

told council officials that a "centrally-managed air support organization" would allow twin-engine helicopters, costing about £1 million to buy and £300 every flying hour to operate, to be used only when necessary. Helicopters and a smaller number of fixed wing aircraft would be located at regional bases, backed up by a central directorate and warehouse with such equipment as surveillance cameras and thermal imagers.

Sixteen forces already operate air units or are about to buy or lease aircraft for operations including traffic control, surveillance and man hunts.

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Union pulls out of scheme for General Teaching Council

By Douglas Brown, Education Reporter

Plans to set up a General Teaching Council received a setback yesterday only two days after it was disclosed that an outline agreement had been reached on the scheme.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, one of the six teachers' unions which agreed in principle before Christmas to set up a limited company to oversee the project, said it was not willing to go further.

The council would oversee professional standards in English and Welsh schools.

The union's general secretary-designate, Mr Nigel de Gruchy, said: "We regard a GTC as a waste of time at the present time. The time for a GTC was probably the 1970s and as far as we can see it is an idea whose time has gone."

He said the union would not be willing to commit large sums of money to funding a secretariat to handle the formation of the new council because it believed that the Government would never endorse the concept.

The thought of this Government agreeing to the creation of a 'producer-led'

council in the 1990s is just pie in the sky," he said. "But we are still in favour of a GTC in principle."

The 20 educational organizations involved in the plan are due to meet in London on February 6, and talks will include employers' representatives for the first time.

Mr de Gruchy said that his union had opposed the move because the local authority employers had "a vested interest in getting teachers on the cheap" and should not be involved in setting professional standards.

His comments followed the disclosure on Monday that agreement in principle had been reached on the plan to set up a permanent body to promote the council plan.

Kingfisher Group, the retailing combine bidding for the Dixons electrical chain, said yesterday that it would honour a commitment by Dixons to put £1 million into a city technology college in Bradford if its bid succeeded.

Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, said any legally binding agreement signed by Dixons would be

honoured although all of the company's "community commitments" would be reviewed if Kingfisher won control. A spokesman for Kingfisher said it appeared that the CTC sponsorship deal was legally binding.

One of the authors of a report on the playground killing of a 13-year-old Asian boy at a Manchester school yesterday denied that the document was "patronizing" to a mother who gave evidence to the inquiry.

Mrs Kim Ruscoe was interviewed by the four-member inquiry team after she withdrew her son from a state primary school in protest at the Labour-controlled city council's anti-racist education policies. She said she believed parts of the 520-page report, to be published as a paperback today, which described her as "deprived" and "white working class", were "patronizing and libellous".

Mr Gus John, director of education in Hackney, east London, and a member of the inquiry team, said yesterday: "We attempted to quote her fairly and accurately and our analysis is objective."

Listening to the future with Dame Vera

PETER TREWEN



Dame Vera Lynn listening to children from Liberty Middle School, Mitcham, reading poems yesterday about what life would be like as a pensioner in the next century. Dame Vera was helping to launch the golden jubilee of the charity Age Concern, of which she is vice-president. Schoolchildren are taking part in a competition by writing poems, "rap" rhymes or blank verse to describe life in 50 years' time. The best 50 entries will be published later this year.

Silver wine coolers to stay in Britain

The first heritage battle of the year was won yesterday when Lord Carrington, chairman of Christie's, gave the final £68,000 required to ensure that the threatened Chesterfield wine coolers remain in Britain.

He presented a cheque for the money to Lord Armstrong, chairman of the trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, at the official opening of an exhibition of Mohammed Al-Tajer's collection "The glory of the goldsmith" at Christie's London.

"Christie's has made this the best possible start to the new year for the Victoria and Albert Museum," Lord Armstrong said.

"While the two wine coolers will be housed separately at the V&A and The National Museums of Scotland, we are planning to display them together as often as possible."

The coolers were sold for £750,000 last year. However, the Government Reviewing Committee on the export of works of art stopped their departure to the United States to enable a British institution

to match the price by January 18. It also took the unusual step of "starting" the coolers to indicate their special status.

An appeal was launched by the museums and the money was raised, with just over a fortnight to spare, through public donation assisted by the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collections Fund.

The coolers were made by Paul de Lamerie (1688-1751) and Paul Crespin (1694-1770), two of the greatest eighteenth-century English goldsmiths, for the 4th Earl of Chesterfield on his appointment as British ambassador to The Hague.

They are considered to be the most outstanding examples of English silver in the French Late Regence style.

Mr John Murdoch, assistant director, collections, at the V&A, said: "It has been a good example of co-operation between museums and a marvelous precedent for the future."

Campaign for fairer subsidence payouts

By John Young

A campaign to obtain fairer treatment for people whose homes or businesses are damaged by mining subsidence has been launched amid claims that more than a quarter of all parliamentary constituencies are or could in future be affected by deep mining.

A joint working party of the Country Landowners' Association, the National Farmers' Union, the British Property Federation, the Building Societies' Association, the Law Society and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is sending letters to 170 MPs of all parties in areas where coal-bearing strata are known or thought to exist.

The list has been compiled by the Law Society in conjunction with British Coal, and includes such unlikely areas as Penrith, the High Peak area of Derbyshire, Banbury, Abing-

don and Penrith. Mr John Henderson, chairman of the working party, says affected areas are widespread and extend far beyond the coalfields.

"We want to emphasize that this is no narrow issue, but a genuine cause for national concern. We are asking these MPs to support our drive for better compensation for people whose properties, lives and businesses are disrupted and sometimes destroyed by coal mining," he said.

British Coal said it took its responsibility for dealing with subsidence damage very seriously. Some 25,000 claims were received every year, of which between 90 and 95 per cent were settled satisfactorily.

The Government has put forward proposals for legislation covering subsidence and compensation, which are now the subject of consultation.

Salmon farmers agree to code on wildlife

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Scottish salmon farmers have agreed with conservation groups on a code of conduct on the protection of predatory wildlife around fish farms, it was disclosed yesterday.

The agreement between the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association and the Nature Conservancy Council, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, the Marine Conservation Society, the Vincent Wildlife Trust and the Natural Environment Council's sea mammal unit should cut indiscriminate shootings of wild animals attempting to feed on stocks.

Dr Jim Buchanan, technical director of the association, said the Farming and Forestry Wildlife Guidelines offered farmers "detailed advice in relation to the law and species identification".

It also set out "anti-predatory measures such as netting and seal-scaring devices as well as humane shooting as a

last resort". Under the code, the association has committed members to continue the funding of research projects into improving methods and technologies for the non-destructive control of wildlife.

The agreement, to be announced officially next month, decrees that "there is no justification" for the destruction of surface-feeding birds. Farmers are advised that properly deployed anti-predator nets should be used first against diving birds before growers considered more draconian measures.

It has been accepted that technologies do not as yet exist to ward off seals totally. However, farmers must attempt reasonable measures to exclude the animals from salmon cages before the killing of a seal can be considered.

"The destructive control of others cannot be justified in any circumstance," it says.

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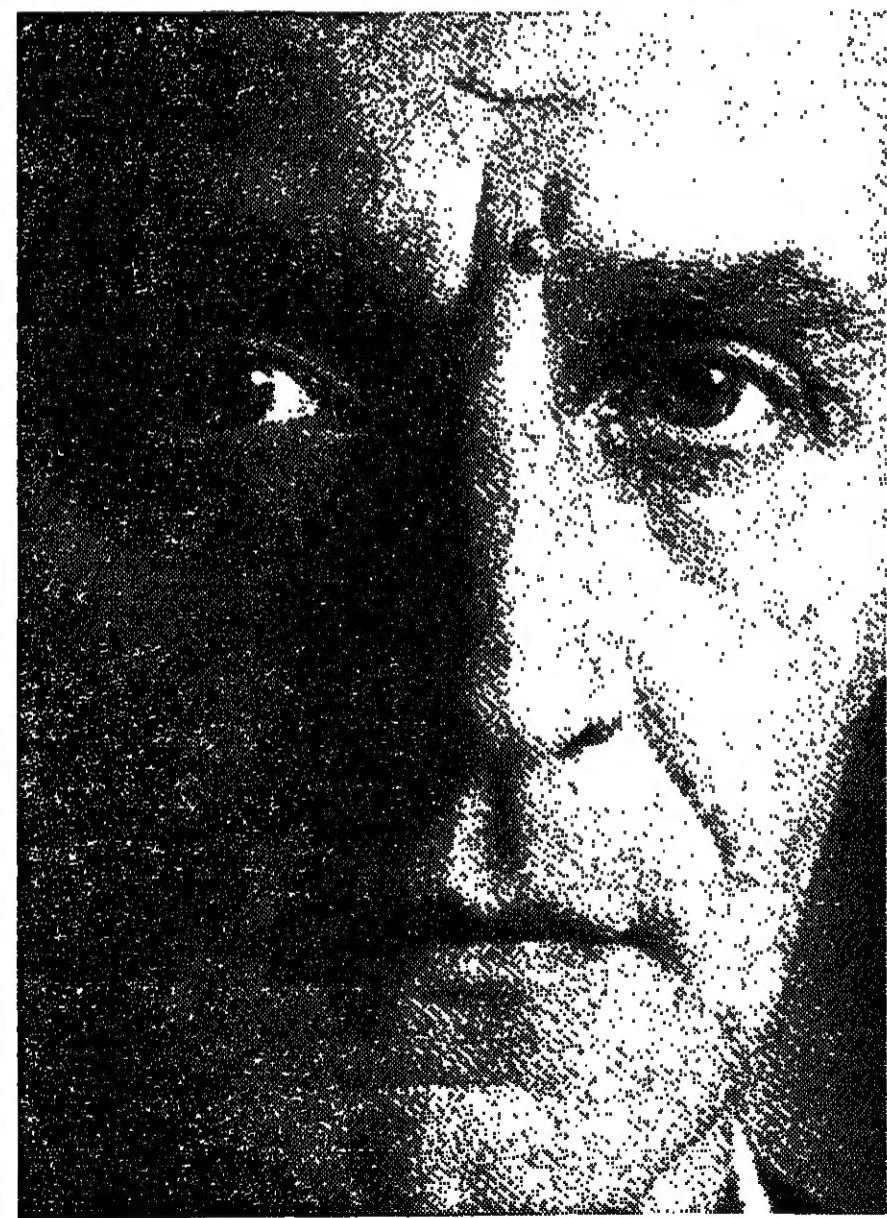
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REVOLUTION IN ROMANIA

Evidence grows of a planned coup

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

The mythology of the Romanian revolution was beginning to crumble yesterday. An excited young man pushed himself in front of the cameras: "There was no conspiracy! This was a real revolution!"

A week ago, with blood on the pavement, there seemed no doubt about the authenticity of the snap revolution — and indeed, the bravery of thousands of Romanians is not in dispute.

But there is a crucial ambiguity about the role of the Army and the Foreign Ministry — the only two institutions under Ceausescu with regular communications to Moscow — and a growing suspicion that the popular uprising was in fact a carefully planned coup d'état.

The first myth has already gone: that 60,000 were killed in the Christmas fighting. Independent estimates now put the death toll closer to a still substantial 7,000.

Mr Aurel Dragoș Munteanu, the new chairman of television, said yesterday that it was all a misunderstanding — the original high number referred to casualties, and not to deaths.

The Romanians need, from national pride, to believe the revolution was the result of spontaneous combustion, a spark that flew from the massacre in Timisoara to Bucharest, blasting the squares and streets, cracking the nerve of Ceausescu — in short, a truly national rebellion.

But there is considerable circumstantial evidence that some generals had prepared a contingency plan as early as last month, when a group of former Communist officials, including the influential former ambassador, Mr Silvia Brucan, published an open letter attacking Ceausescu.

This letter identified an opposition core. Now it has been disclosed that present members of the revolutionary Government were already meeting secretly six months ago, had contacts with generals, and had even agreed on the name of the National Salvation Front.

Promotion in the Army had been locked for almost three years and younger officers especially were concerned about the real — rather than publicly declared — state of the



A young boy sitting behind a gun on a Romanian armoured personnel carrier under the watchful eye of a soldier in Republic Square, Bucharest, yesterday.

economy. The Army has 150,000 men but with an unusually high proportion of conscripts — 95,000 — it is particularly close to the people. Soldiers clear away the snow, gather in the harvest, build offices, lay railway track and dig up coal.

The Securitate, by contrast, was in constant training, had generous rations and a disproportionately high budget. There were also officers within the Army to report on its loyalty — this did more than anything to breed anti-Ceausescu feeling. By the time of the party congress in November, some high-ranking officers were being confined to barracks.

Then came Timisoara. It was plainly a genuine outburst of anger, but the spread of the revolt was facilitated by the Army. It was a decision of

General Vasile Milea to refuse to shoot on the Bucharest crowds that made Ceausescu panic. The general was executed soon afterwards and has been made a posthumous hero.

Bucharest (Reuters) — Romania's national news agency, once devoted to Ceausescu, announced yesterday it was changing its name from *AGERPRES* to *ROMPRES*. Since the overthrow of Ceausescu, *AGERPRES* has provided a daily "Romanian free press review" and reported extensively on the new leadership.

This is an amazing indiscretion because the official version is that the leadership was fused, in Mr Brucan's words, "in the flame of the revolution".

Why does it matter? Because the Romanians have to believe that they overthrew Ceausescu by themselves.

Nothing else can give the revolutionary authorities any legitimacy. Any suggestion of a conspiracy, or worse, of a Soviet connection, in some way diminishes the significance of the uprising.

Yet the timing of the revolution was very precise. Bucharest wits say that the Polish revolution was made in 10 years, the Hungarian in 10 months, the Czechoslovak in 10 days — and the Romanian in 10 hours.

Certainly Ceausescu was out of the country, visiting Iran, and Soviet "humanitarian" assistance came very quickly indeed. Did this include ammunition? The National Salvation Front denies it vehemently. But it is a fact that the Army ran out of ammunition after two days' fighting, that new supplies

came from mysterious sources within a day, that rail traffic from the Soviet Union was blocked on that day and that the head of the National Salvation Front telephoned Mr Gorbachev very early in the revolution.

Nobody has an interest in delving deeply. The most likely explanation is that the Army was ready to seize on any popular flare-up.

The Army is now pivotal to the future of the revolution. The military leadership is now completely aligned with the revolutionary Government.

But if the management of the economy runs out of control, or if there is pressure from the students to radicalize the revolution, then the Army may well grow impatient. If it withdraws its support from the Government, then Romania will plunge into chaos.

Sauls becoming Pauls as new order emerges

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

Mr Andrei Plesu, a former critic of Ceausescu who has taken over as Culture Minister, summoned his civil servants and gave them the kind of subtle ultimatum now fashionable in Romania.

"I want everyone in this meeting to decide whether they really served culture over the past years," he told his stunned officials. "The older members of this ministry can be retired, the younger ones will be found jobs elsewhere. Please examine your hearts and we will see who is left on January 31."

Nobody had ever spoken to officials like that before; it was a new language. Appeals to conscience have been as rare in Romania as salami and 100-watt lightbulbs.

This is the time of great and sudden conversions. Sauls are turning into Pauls. The man who was so unpleasant to me in the Foreign Ministry, who blocked a visa to Romania for five years, pulled me into a Hollywood hug, kissed both cheeks, and declared: "At last we're free!"

Whole embassies are denouncing the fiendish dictator whom they were so convincingly defending and promoting just six weeks ago.

The same people who applauded Ceausescu 67 times at the party congress in November are now calling for the dissolution of their own party. At student meetings, professors preface their speeches by admitting to shameful opportunism in the past; journalists sign off their articles by announcing that these are the first truthful words they have written for 20 years.

The impression is of being caught in a huge marquee of evangelists, surrounded by people who speak in tongues or find salvation. It provokes a degree of cynicism.

Where is the opposition? The Securitate is either lurking in attics plotting its next move or, yes, converting. This is the necessary theatre of revolution; necessary, that is, if opposition has been as thoroughly neutered as it was under Ceausescu.

There is no political class

apart from that created by Ceausescu, and so the revolution has to reach an accommodation with the *ancien régime*. Slavic cultures purge, the Latins shoot, kiss and forget. It is the same elasticity that allowed Romania, and indeed Italy, to change sides with such agility in war.

But there were real victims of Ceausescu. One bumps into them everywhere. There was a man on the road to Oradea airport whose house was removed, every brick of it, because Ceausescu had a mad scheme to build a personal underground railway from party headquarters to the airport 12 miles away. He was, it seems, as afraid of the people as the people were of him.

He had a holiday villa near Snagov, a beautiful wooded spot, with deer running wild, on the edge of a lake.

From Snagov come the familiar stories. Local farmers were ordered to destroy all their livestock because the mooring of the cows once kept Elena Ceausescu awake. A man who once tried to petition Ceausescu when he arrived on holiday tries pathetically to buttonhole a reporter. He was paralysed after being beaten by the Securitate. Then there is the father who was fined thousands of lei because his chicken ran in front of the Ceausescus' car.

Most Romanians can argue that they were victims, since the Securitate was so venomous. But the intellectuals have the flimsiest arguments for their collaboration with the authorities.

What is one to make of court poets such as Florian Popescu who wrote only recently that Elena Ceausescu was the "wind and the sun"?

Nobody forced him to scrawl this verse and the rewards of such compromise are actually rather low: he does not live in a sprawling dacha or drive a flashy car. Stalin jailed and murdered poets but he also respected them, regarded them as important. Ceausescu merely degraded them. Perhaps they too then are a kind of victim.

The legacy of austerity

Food supply crucial to prevent unrest

From Anatol Ljeven, Iasi, Soviet-Romanian border

Food and fuel shortages did as much as anything to bring down the Ceausescu regime in Romania — and could equally threaten the new Government.

Mr Florentin Carpani, the director of the country's largest agro-industrial enterprise, said bleakly that "hunger and cold" had been the most important factors in the overthrow of the late dictator.

So food provision is the most urgent task facing provisional administrators, leading to exports of Romania's main products, food and oil, being "temporarily" suspended.

To pay off the huge foreign debts incurred by his regime, Ceausescu launched a forced export policy in 1981 without any consideration for the well-being of the people. The result has been widespread malnutrition, and a mortality rate rumoured to have risen sharply.

In the wake of the provisional Government's announcement that peasant farmers are to be allowed to own small pieces of land and grow produce for the free market, it is unclear both how the foreign contracts made under Ceausescu's policy can be honoured — even after a delay — and how long Romania can suspend

export of these commodities without plunging into inflation and a balance-of-payments crisis.

The Government will be helped, however, by the fact that Ceausescu apparently did succeed in paying off most of the country's debts.

Some of the new leaders are afraid that if they cannot stabilize the food situation at a reasonable level, popular anger may turn against them. And demonstrators in Oradea, people in

Tehran (Reuters) — Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said President Rafsanjani supported Ceausescu's visit last month because of defence contracts. Ceausescu signed deals, worth billions of dollars, on technical assistance in return for Iranian gas and oil supplies.

Timisoara, and Mr Cyprian Dima, a member of the Committee of National Salvation in Brasov, all expressed concern because many black marketers have joined the local committees of the provisional administration.

If there are economic disturbances, a fear exists that Romania's progress towards democracy could be checked. The chairman of the local Committee of National Salvation in one of the main cities fears that "we could well

see a second wave of unrest". He added that, although he had good relations with the military, "the economic situation is a reason not wholly to trust the Army. Democracy in an inexperienced people, in a state of economic misery, risks turning into anarchy. This might possibly cause a brutal intervention to put an end to democratic growth".

In that case, he said, the many local Securitate forces which did not fight back against the revolution but quietly placed themselves under the command of the Army might have a chance to come into their own again.

Justifying the Committee of National Salvation's failure to announce anything concrete concerning investigations and possible trials of Securitate personnel, one of its members said: "If I say 'No, we are not going to investigate them', I can't predict the response of the crowd. And if I say 'Yes, they will be investigated', it means that all those who still have access to information could begin to prepare a counter-attack."

For the moment, any intervention by former members of the Securitate seems remote, since the supply situation has greatly improved.

In Timisoara, meat is readily available in the shops. In Iasi, the

administration has distributed its stocks of coffee, which is selling freely at less than a sixth of its previous prohibitive blackmarket price of almost half an average monthly salary for a kilo.

This situation of greater availability of supplies is unlikely to last for long, particularly if people begin to hoard. But Professor Doru Tigau, chairman of the local committee in Iasi, said he was confident the town could get through the winter without serious shortages of basic foods.

Furthermore, he claimed even to have sent 140 wagonloads of food to other areas, and pointed out that people's expectations were not high, and that "things can hardly get worse than they were before".

Mr Carpani, director of the Comint agro-industrial conglomerate in Timisoara, is also one of the men with the greatest responsibility for keeping the people fed.

As head of what is said to be the world's largest exporter of pork products, he will have to try to square the circle of distributing food at home without completely sacrificing exports. Mr Carpani says that he is confident that his foreign trading partners will show "patience and understanding" over the problems faced by Romania.

Bucharest loses its leading envoy and former rebel

Corneliu Bogdan, the long-time Romanian envoy to Washington who broke with the Ceausescu dictatorship and took a prominent place in the new revolutionary Government, died of a stroke on Monday in Bucharest.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bucharest said Bogdan, aged 68, was taken ill at the Foreign Ministry on Monday and died later in hospital. Bogdan was regarded as Romania's premier diplomat. He served as ambassador to the United States from 1967 to 1978 and held senior posts at the Foreign Ministry in Bucharest until dropping from view in 1982.

By 1988, he was reported under house arrest as a potential opponent to a corrupt and faltering system.

Before then, he was believed to have been the principal adviser on the United States to Ceausescu.

Bogdan was posted in Washington at a time when US relations with Romania were far better than Washington's ties to other Warsaw Pact countries. He was given much credit for cultivating the

relations, along with commercial and cultural exchanges.

He served as a liaison when Ceausescu sought a visit by President Nixon, who arrived in Bucharest in August 1969 to the most enthusiastic welcome of Mr Nixon's global tour.

Ceausescu was seeking to shore up his country's position with the US in the area of most-favoured-nation trade status.

Bogdan's affable presence in the US served as an important instrument to Ceausescu in

his efforts to steer an independent course within the Soviet orbit.

The Romanian dictator became Washington's favourite maverick within the Warsaw Pact, despite his disastrous internal policies and the conditions that drove his people to a desperate struggle for freedom.

It is unclear just what final straw drove Bogdan to turn against the old regime.

His dismissal from the Foreign Ministry, where he had been the director for Western Hemisphere affairs, came at a time when the Reagan Administration was angry with Ceausescu.

At issue was a plan to impose a large education tax on those people allowed to leave Romania.

The tax reportedly was drawn up against the advice of the Foreign Ministry and over Bogdan's opposition.

After his release from house arrest early last year, Bogdan made his second appearance in Washington, as a visiting scholar at the Smithsonian Institution's Wilson Centre.

New York Times



Corneliu Bogdan: Prominent in the new Government.

Ceausescu's nuclear promises under spotlight

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

The Romanian authorities are expected to re-examine the Ceausescu regime's nuclear research programme to establish whether it had any military purposes. Although the regime said it had no such intention, there was concern in Hungary that it might be secretly developing a nuclear bomb capability. It is fairly certain, however, that even if it tried it did not succeed.

Ceausescu said on April 14

that Romania had the ability to make nuclear weapons, but had refrained from doing so out of concern for world peace.

Western capitals, including Washington and London, generally accepted his assurances. Only a week before his fall, Washington said it was ready to sell Bucharest 16.4kg of highly enriched uranium.

The US State Department said Romania had promised not to use it to make a bomb, though American critics pointed out that it would have been

both suitable and sufficient. Bucharest said it would be used at the Triga reactor near Bucharest, a teaching facility combined with a research centre and a plant for making radioactive isotopes.

The West German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, reported in May that Romania was building a plant to assemble missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, using technology imported mainly from Western firms.

It said the plant was being

constructed partly underground. There was also concern that 12.5 tons of heavy water, sold by Norway to Bucharest in 1986 for use in Romania's first nuclear power plant at Cernavoda, in the south-east, might have been misused especially since the plant has not begun production.

Delays, probably caused by lack of expertise, prompted speculation that Bucharest had sold the heavy water to Israel for nuclear weapons

purposes, but Bucharest denied this.

British authorities were satisfied that Moscow, keen to uphold the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, had not given nuclear warheads to Romania.

It was reported yesterday that political prisoners had been forced to work in uranium mines in Transylvania. However, the aim may have been to provide fuel for the Cernavoda power station, designed to run on unenriched uranium.

Securitate man found 'murdered'

By Our Foreign Staff

A suspected member of Romania's hated Securitate has been found dead in mysterious circumstances in Switzerland, while in Athens the Romanian Ambassador has denied that the station head of Securitate was murdered there and then his body smuggled out of the country.

A man who has not yet been publicly identified was found, apparently murdered, in a Berne hotel yesterday. He had earlier applied for political

asylum, Mr Stefan Kaspar, a police spokesman, said, adding that several people had told investigators that the man, aged 38, was linked with the Securitate.

In Athens, macabre allegations that Romanian Embassy guards there killed the Securitate station chief, then smuggled his body by car to Bucharest in a diplomatic bag, were denied yesterday by Mr Nicolae Ecobescu, the Romanian Ambassador.

The report, in *Eleftherotypia*, an Athens daily, quoted

unspecified East European and African sources in Athens. It said that the unnamed Securitate chief, who had been running the embassy after confining the ambassador to his living quarters in the bunker-like building, was "executed" by "embassy staff" on December 22.

The newspaper claimed this had enabled Mr Ecobescu again to take charge of the embassy and proclaim its allegiance to the pro-democracy Committee of National Salvation.

Bulgarians take to streets in protest against Turkish religious rights

Kurdzhali, Bulgaria (Reuters) — Bulgarians chanting anti-Turkish songs that date back to Ottoman rule demonstrated in this southern town yesterday against a decision to grant religious rights to local ethnic Turks.

Police with truncheons separated about 1,000 Bulgarians and ethnic Turks during the protest outside Communist Party headquarters. Shouts of "Bulgaria, Bulgaria" and "No to Turkish slavery" were answered with: "Give us our names back. We want our rights."

Turks in the crowd outnumbered Bulgarians, who are angered that the Turks' religious rights and Muslim names are to be formally recognized.

About 10,000 Bulgarians held a similar protest on New Year's Day in this town which lies 160 miles south of the capital, Sofia, and about 600 Bulgarians in 120 cars have since been seen driving to Sofia where they were planning to besiege the National Assembly building.

Mr Stanko Todorov, the chairman of the National Assembly, told demonstrators ethnic Turks in Sofia on Friday that in future "everybody in Bulgaria will be able to choose his name, religion and language freely".

Local Communist authorities in this predominantly Turkish town of 50,000 people decided on Saturday to defy the Central Committee's decision to over-

turn the previous leadership's policy of forcibly assimilating ethnic Turks.

The Bulgarians, who complained that they were not consulted, demanded a national referendum to decide the fate of the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks, many of whom live in this mountain region close to the Turkish border.

Cars heading for the planned protest in Sofia drove with headlights on and bore Bulgarian banners. Participants said they would be joined by Bulgarians from other provinces who oppose the new Communist Party policy.

They said they would remain in Sofia until the Government accepted a petition setting out their demands. The new Communist leadership headed by Mr Petar Mladenov, concerned at the damage to Bulgaria's image from its policy of forced assimilation, ruled last week that ethnic Turks and Bulgarian Moslems would be allowed religious freedom and the right to use their Muslim names.

Under Mr Todor Zhivkov, the former hardline President ethnic Turks were forced to assume Bulgarian names. About 300,000 fled to Turkey in mid-1989 after several people were said to have been killed during police suppression of peaceful protests.

Bulgarian television said that the Monday night protest in Kurdzhali had

prompted the party to send Mr Andrei Lukanov, a senior Politburo member, to examine the situation.

Mr Milcho Milchev, the party secretary in Kurdzhali, described the mood as nervous, adding: "There is strong politicization of the people."

"This position was taken without consulting public opinion here and came as a surprise. In this sensitive region it produced a problem," he said.

The head of the town's theatre said he believed that if the authorities did not solve the problem soon "they will have another Ulster here".

● ISTANBUL: Ethnic Turks who emigrated to Turkey from Bulgaria last year will be given back their homes and jobs if they return, an official at the Bulgarian consulate in this city promised yesterday (AP reports).

Mr Slavi Slavov, the consul, told a news conference "their property is still there, it belongs to them."

He added: "Everyone who lives in Bulgaria will have equal rights."

It was the first news conference at the consulate since 1985 when the Sofia Government implemented the forced assimilation policy.

Mr Slavov also said the new Bulgarian Government would declare an amnesty soon for those imprisoned for other than terrorist crimes.

هكذا من الاصل

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Berlin communists to lay off staff as power base shrinks

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

The East German Socialist Unity (communist) Party is to lay off a substantial number of full-time party workers as a recognition of its shrinking role in the country's political structure.

In an interview with *Neues Deutschland*, the party daily, Herr Lothar Bisky, a member of the standing committee which replaced the Politburo in December, said a "considerably smaller apparatus" would govern the party's affairs in the run-up to the May elections.

Herr Bisky did not say how many employees would lose their jobs or whether they would be redeployed outside the party. Many functions, previously responsible for policy and propaganda, have been relieved of their posts in recent weeks and will be stripped of their party perks, such as Western cars and access to special restaurants.

The special restaurant for Politburo members in the communist party's rambling headquarters has been closed.

Country homes and health farms owned by the party are to be converted into hotels for foreign visitors, or hostels for party members recuperating

from illness. ADN, the official East German news agency, announced yesterday that the exclusive Wandlitz compound, formally inhabited by the Politburo and leading functionaries, is to be turned by the Ministry of Health into a sanatorium to accommodate 400 patients suffering from chronic illness and stress.

"Our aim is to take the first patients in February. By then

Bonn - West German security officials are investigating a "secret army", believed to be 300-strong, of East and West German communists who are said to have planned to carry out terrorist and sabotage attacks in West Germany in times of crisis, the Frankfurt public prosecutor's office said yesterday.

All previous residents will have moved out," said a spokesman for the Health Ministry.

These include Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader, and Frau Margot Honecker, his wife and former Education Minister, who are both still under house arrest in the complex.

The spokesman did not say

where the couple would be housed.

Private talks: Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, held private talks yesterday with various small parties and opposition groups, who make up the country's round-table talks, in an attempt to stave off a split in their ranks. Some opposition groups and the Liberal Democratic Party had complained that the communist party was assuming too significant a role in the talks.

Herr Modrow said his Government wanted to hear suggestions for change from all organizations concerned.

"If we do not succeed now

in creating a climate of mutual regard we will find it difficult to create the right climate for free and democratic elections in May," he said.

Police fall: East Germany's Office for National Security, which replaced the hated Stasi secret police, will be disbanded by June 20 (AFP reports). The many buildings that are occupied by the organization will be converted for public use and placed at the disposal of companies and institutions as quickly as possible.

Azerbaijani killed in Soviet bus ambush

By Our Foreign Staff

One person died and three were injured when a bus full of Azerbaijanis was ambushed in the southern Soviet region of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday, apparently by Armenians, Tass reported.

The bus, escorted by police cadets, was shot at and stoned as it travelled through Armenian territory between the predominantly Azerbaijani towns of Agdam and Shusha, the official agency reported.

"The cadets opened fire in self-defence in response," Tass went on. "Four citizens from the city of Stepanakert were injured, one of whom died."

Tass said several other bus passengers were also injured and a police car was set on fire. After the bus arrived in Shusha, about 5,000 people gathered with the aim of travelling the three miles to Stepanakert to settle scores with the Armenians.

Tass said they were held back by Interior Ministry troops stationed in the region.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party chief in the Azerbaijani town of Dzhalizabad is said to have been among 80 people injured in a clash between police and demonstrators demanding his ejection from office, an official said.

Mr Savili Perets, deputy director of the southern republic's official news agency Azerinform, said members of the Azerbaijan People's Front demonstrated in the town on Friday and Saturday.

They attacked the police and regional party headquarters in Dzhalizabad, which

is near the Iranian border and the Caspian Sea. The protesters struck Mr Kerula Aliev, the highest-ranking official there, whom they accused of ignoring social and economic problems and whose removal they demanded, Mr Perets said. Mr Aliev had been taken to Baku for treatment.

One demonstrator had been shot, and more than 20 others and 60 policemen were injured by other means, Mr Perets said.

People's Front activists claimed at the weekend that police in Dzhalizabad had fired on a crowd of between 20,000 and 30,000 protesters and that police had shot and killed a man aged 19. Mr Perets denied that anyone had been killed.

Several protesters detained after the incident have been released, and a commission of the republic's Supreme Soviet legislature is investigating.

Mr Perets said the situation has since stabilized.

Quoting interior ministry sources, Tass said that mobs had gone on the rampage last Friday, attacking the offices of the local militia and party district committee.

According to a local journalist quoted by Tass, most of the people were demanding the electoral rules be rewritten in advance of local polls.

An Iranian newspaper, *Kayhan*, has reported that Azeri demonstrators on New Year's Eve burnt several Soviet frontier posts while calling for Muslim unity.



Battle lines: Laundry airing in a neighbourhood of Yerevan, the Armenian capital, occupied by Armenian refugees from the bitter conflict with the Muslims in neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Neo-Nazi attacks in East Germany

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

A new year campaign of attacks by neo-Nazis on grave-stones and memorials to the victims of fascism has spread rapidly through East Germany, according to reports in the official media yesterday.

The giant memorial to the Red Army in the Treptow Park in East Berlin has been repeatedly vandalized over the past few days and smeared with fascist slogans.

The communist party daily *Neues Deutschland* reported that groups of skinheads and neo-Nazis of all ages had roamed the streets of Gera in the south of the country since New Year's Eve desecrating the Soviet graveyard there.

In Dresden and Götting near the Polish border, further attacks were reported yesterday with walls smeared with slogans such as: "We are back", "Hitler lives", and giant swastikas painted on buildings. Details also emerged yesterday of neo-

nazi attacks in the cathedral city of Erfurt on New Year's Eve. Local radio reported that a group of youths ran riot in the crowd celebrating on the cathedral square at midnight brandishing home-made weapons and waving West German flags.

East German newspapers now report such attacks, previously suppressed, in detail. The communist party, together with other anti-fascist groups in the country, has placed a large appeal in *Neues Deutschland* calling for united action against extreme right-wing tendencies.

The West German extreme right-wing Republican Party has stated it intends to set up an equivalent in the East before the run-up to the May elections.

The communist party, now discredited as a political force, looks increasingly likely to fight the elections on a strong anti-fascist platform.

DISAPPOINTED HOMEOWNERS TAKE HEART

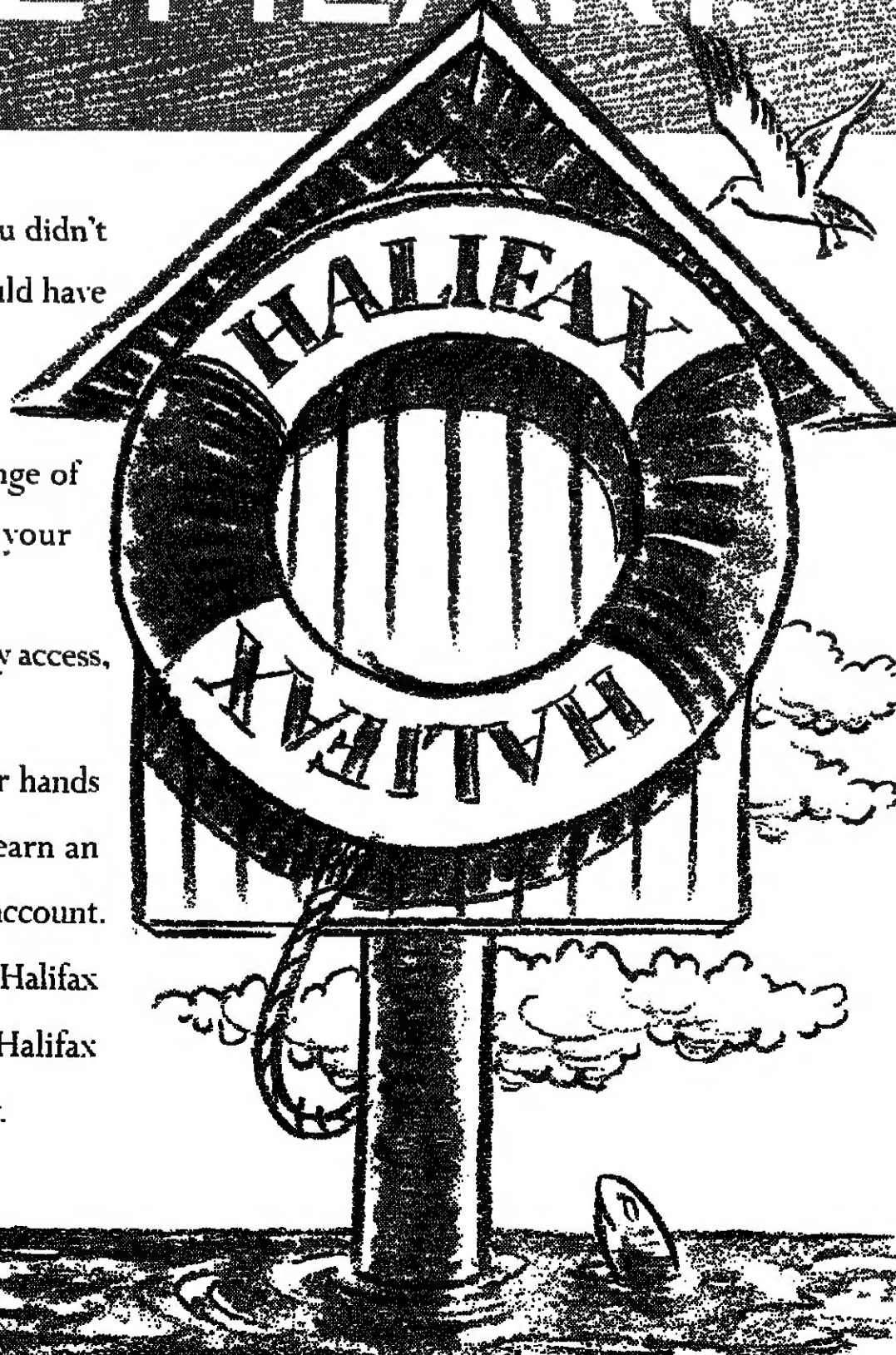
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Noriega talks envoy arrives

Monsignor Giacinto Berloco, a Vatican envoy, arrived in Panama City yesterday to help negotiate requests for the release of General Manuel Noriega, the deposed dictator, from his refuge in the Vatican mission there (Our Foreign Staff writes). A church official said it was up to the general to decide when to leave, but Vatican officials have said they were urging him to leave of his own accord.

Meanwhile, 19 of 20 US diplomats expelled from Managua in retaliation for a mistaken raid by US troops on the home of the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Panama City have returned to the US. The other diplomat had left the country earlier. The first 141 of 14,000 additional US troops sent to Panama for last month's invasion have also returned home, leaving more than 25,800 to continue a mop-up operation.

Afghan 'coup attempt'

Kabul (AFP) - A group of Afghan generals, including the air defence chief, were arrested here last month for plotting a coup against President Najibullah, government sources here said. The plot, which resulted in 127 arrests including those of 11 generals, could further widen rifts within the ranks of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, said the sources, who refused to be identified. The air defence chief and the commanding general of a rocket base in the Karra district of Kabul, were among the arrested, all members of the party's pro-military Khalq faction.

Cold spell claims 109

Delhi (AFP) - At least 109 people have died across northern India in a cold spell which has frozen mountain lakes, burst water pipes and hit transport services, news reports said yesterday. The Press Trust of India said the death toll in the cold wave had risen to 87 in eastern Bihar state, 17 in northern Uttar Pradesh and five in western Gujarat. It gave no details of the deaths, but most are believed to be of homeless, who sleep in the open in cities and towns across the country including the capital. The temperature plunged to 2°C in Bihar.

New triads threat

Peking (AFP) - War has been declared on Chinese triad crime syndicates which are making a comeback with gangs in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, the New China news agency reports. Dismantled by the police when the communists came to power in 1949, the syndicates have re-emerged in the southern province of Guangdong and in coastal provinces. A new campaign includes action against prostitution, pornography, trading in women and children, drugs, gambling and profiting from superstition.

Texas family boost

Austin, Texas (AP) - When Mr Ron Thompson sat down for lunch on New Year's Eve, he was the grandfather of five. At breakfast on Monday, he was a grandfather of nine. Three of his daughters, Mary Tolson, Joan Thompson and Carol Thompson, gave birth to four boys at Seton Medical Centre late on Sunday and early on Monday. The mothers and the four boys were in good condition on New Year's Day.

Israelis accused of encouraging troop killings of civilians

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International, in a report published today, accuses the Israeli Government of encouraging, even actively encouraging, its troops to shoot Palestinian civilians in an effort to contain the intifada in the occupied territories.

The human rights organization cites as evidence a pattern of certain killings of unarmed Palestinians, inadequate investigation of abuses by the authorities, and guidelines "which might actually permit unjustifiable killing".

It says: "We are concerned that, taken together, these factors appear to add up to more than just tolerance of serious abuses, and amount to real encouragement of them."

Amnesty calls for an urgent review of the guidelines under which troops are permitted to open fire. It also says there should be a comprehensive judicial inquiry into what it describes as extensive and serious human rights violations committed by Israeli military forces since the intifada began two years ago.

In an "alarmingly high number of instances", the report says, those shot do not appear to have been involved in life-threatening or even violent activities, and it questions whether stone-throwing incidents, in which people,

often children, have been shot, are a serious enough danger to justify the use of firearms.

The report accuses Israeli forces of hampering, sometimes withholding, emergency medical care to casualties.

More than 540 people have died during the intifada, the report says, with the use of force often excessive and indiscriminate. The guidelines regulating circumstances in which troops may open fire

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in the occupied territories yesterday and demolished the house in the West Bank of a resident suspected of killing a fellow Palestinian.

are said often to have been disregarded, it adds.

The guidelines "appear to permit the killing of people who are involved in activities which do not necessarily endanger life, or are suspected of having been involved in such activities, or who are in fact simply wearing masks", the report states. If this is so, it continues, the guidelines are incompatible with the 1979 United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

About half the 540 unarmed civilians shot dead in the

intifada were aged 18 or under, says the report. More than 110 were under 16 and some only three or four. The report documents several specific cases which, it says, suggest excessive use of force or deliberate killing.

One incident occurred last March 19 when Samer Aruri, a boy aged 11, was playing football in the West Bank village of Silat el-Harithiya.

A convoy of soldiers entered the village, the report says, apparently to warn the population that houses were to be destroyed. "When they saw the soldiers arriving, the children ran to higher ground to watch what was going on. It is not clear whether they also threw stones. One soldier got out of his vehicle and opened fire, apparently without warning," it continues.

"Samer Aruri was fatally wounded in the neck and fell to the ground. One of his friends was injured in the legs. The same soldier is then said to have swung round and fired at other youths. One bullet hit 17-year-old Numan Jaradat in the head. He died several hours later at Rambam hospital in Haifa."

The report also notes that 130 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians in the same period, some after interrogation and torture.

Weizman agreement to quit inner Cabinet defuses crisis

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

The latest Israeli political crisis was defused yesterday when Mr Ezer Weizman, the flamboyant Science Minister, agreed to leave the policy-making inner Cabinet in exchange for a decision by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, not to fire him.

The controversy began on Sunday, when Mr Shamir surprised the Cabinet and announced he would dismiss Mr Weizman within 48 hours because of "direct and indirect contacts with the PLO". Israel considers the Palestine Liberation Organization to be a terrorist group.

The controversy had threatened to split the fragile coalition between Mr Shamir's right-wing Likud party and the left-of-centre Labour Party, which have ruled together since November 1988.

The compromise resolution came yesterday at a meeting in Mr Shamir's office with Mr Weizman. Afterwards, Mr

Weizman, a former RAF fighter pilot, said: "There is no admission of guilt here. Admission of guilt can be in court after a sentence is passed, and this has not happened."

He added: "It's a typical Middle East compromise."

Mr Yossi Alhimer, an aide to Mr Shamir, said after the meeting: "There is no longer a crisis."

He declared: "A man who was once Defence Minister and air force commander will no longer be in the inner Cabinet, with Labour's agreement... today it is clear to the Egyptians and the Americans - and anyone who wants to know - that the PLO is not a partner for negotiations."

Mr Alhimer made it clear that Mr Weizman would retain his science portfolio and said his removal from the inner Cabinet "will be reconsidered after 18 months".

Mr Weizman leaves for Moscow today for meetings

with Soviet scientists. The crisis was the worst in the Government since last summer, when Labour threatened to leave the Government after the Likud governing committee added headline conditions to the Israeli peace plan.

The row was resolved when the Cabinet reaffirmed the plan, which calls for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to select Palestinians to open talks with Israel on limited autonomy.

The two parties have been sparring of late over efforts by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to get Egyptian-mediated preliminary talks going.

Mr Weizman has denied direct contacts with PLO leaders, which are against Israeli law. But he said on Monday he had received a telephone call from a PLO figure in Tunis and that he had shared knowledge of the call with other governmental officials.

Bush lets a little one get away



President Bush was after bigger fish when he threw back this small bass during a fishing trip to Montgomery, Alabama. He later landed a 5lb specimen, but Mrs Barbara Bush, who admits that she would far rather stay at home than join her husband on his hunting and

fishing trips, caught a six-pounder. President Bush had a bad press during his summer holiday in Maine with an unsuccessful run of sea-fishing trips. Announcing the outcome of the presidential fishing battle, Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, told

journalists aboard Air Force One, flying the presidential couple back to Washington, that they had had a friendly argument about who had bagged the bigger fish. But, he added, the First Lady had clearly won. All the fish caught were, in fact, thrown back into the water.

US coalmine dispute nears end

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

In a step towards ending a bitter and violent strike at America's largest coal exporter, the United Mine Workers' Union and the Pittston Coal Company have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract.

The nine-month strike, reflecting a trend in US labour disputes, was not over wages but rather Pittston's decision to stop health and pension benefits for existing and retired miners. The issue is so emotive that, at one stage, 46,000 coalminers in 10 states stopped work to demonstrate their solidarity. Even a supportive delegation of Hungarians visited workers.

Strikers who telephoned the union's headquarters in West Virginia cried when they heard the news. Mr Joel Phillips, a union spokesman, said: "We want to return to a normal life and to work."

The local communities of the Appalachian hills were split by the strike and upset by the violent confrontations be-

tween strikers and other Pittston employees.

The settlement was hailed as a success, but the halt in work has denied the influence the union gained over the past 10 years which were practically free of strikes. Many operators of mines felt betrayed following the wildcat strikes by 46,000 workers.

The strike will continue until the contract is ratified by 1,700 miners and the firm's board of directors within 10 days. If ratified, the new contract would mark a firm break with the once-powerful union and could end national contract negotiating in the coal industry.

The strike erupted in April after Pittston said that it wanted to end its contributions to the union's health and pension schemes, to cut costs to stay competitive with foreign coal producers. In the US, where health care is expensive without insurance, company health plans are considered a vital part of a worker's

remuneration. "This is a victory for collective bargaining," said Mr William Usery, a federal mediator appointed last October by Mrs Elizabeth Hanford Dole, the Labour Secretary, to resolve the crisis.

Mr Usery said the Pittston negotiations were difficult because of the acrimony. His appointment, hailed by union officials and the head of Pittston as a "magical stroke", reflected a greater willingness by the Bush Administration to intervene in disputes than that of Mr Ronald Reagan.

Mrs Dole said: "One of the difficult issues in this dispute was the long-term security of the pension and health care benefits of the miners and of their families. But the issue is larger than this particular dispute."

Mr Dole announced that she had helped the intense round-the-clock 62 days of negotiations by pledging to appoint a special commission to study how the American coal industry might cope with

growing benefit costs and the deficits of some pension funds. The settlement will provide a key to the future role of the federal Government in protecting health care benefits for retired workers.

Pittston workers in Virginia and Kentucky had been working for 14 months without a contract before they went on strike. The company reported that it lost \$3.6 million (\$2.23 million) in the first three months of the strike and a further \$9.8 million in the following three. This compared with profits of \$9 million and \$7.4 million in the same months of the previous year.

Mr Richard Trumka, the president of the miners' union, described the tentative settlement as "a victory for the labour movement".

Mr Paul Douglas, the chairman of Pittston, spoke of "mutual achievement of mutual objectives", but emphasized that co-operation would be required.

China to let rebel Fang go into exile

From Jonathan Brande Hong Kong

Professor Fang Lizhi, the dissident Chinese astrophysicist, and his wife will be allowed to leave the People's Republic for Australia this month under a special worked out between Peking and the United States, a magazine here reported yesterday.

Pai Shing, which is usually well informed on Chinese affairs, said that the couple's departure on January 27 was agreed during last month's much-criticized visit to China by Mr Brent Scowcroft, the US National Security Adviser.

The current affairs magazine reported it was established that the couple should leave for a country other than America and that the deal was settled about 10 days after a visit to China by Mr Michael Costello, an Australian special envoy.

Professor Fang and his wife, Miss Li Shuxian, also an outspoken critic of the Chinese Government, took refuge in the US Embassy a few days after Chinese troops crushed the pro-democracy protests in Peking last June, and have remained there since.

The Chinese leadership has branded Professor Fang a traitor and counter-revolutionary, demanding that the US turn him over to the police. In the US, the couple have become a cause célèbre and the Bush Administration has said their plight must be resolved before relations with Peking can return to normal.

Although the couple's release would be seen in the US as helping the President's attempt to repair ties with China, observers say it would be a serious loss of face for Peking to let two of its most wanted dissidents slip through its fingers so publicly.

But the magazine said Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese paramount leader, had approved the professor's exile to a third country provided he gave up all political activity once there. *Pai Shing* said Professor Fang had agreed not to take part in politics once he was in Australia.



Professor Fang: Took refuge in US Embassy last June.

Greenland youth shot seven dead

Copenhagen (Reuters) - An unnamed student, aged 18, shot dead three men and four women, and wounded one man, in a New Year's Day rampage arising out of an argument in a club in the southern Greenland town of Narsaq, the Danish news agency, Ritzau, reported.

The youth had a row with the eight, went home, and returned to open fire on them with a semi-automatic rifle. The survivor identified the youth and police found him sleeping at his mother's home in the town. Ritzau said he confessed to the shootings and was remanded in custody.

Coup charges

Addis Ababa (Reuters) - Twenty-one military and police officers implicated in a coup attempt against President Mengistu of Ethiopia, which lasted three days last May, have been charged with high treason.

Jet mishap

Linthicum, Maryland (AFP) - Several of the 257 passengers were hurt as they left an airliner which had made an emergency landing at Baltimore-Washington international airport with smoke reported in the cockpit.

Kim offer snub

Seoul (AFP) - South Korea dismissed as propaganda a proposal by President Kim of North Korea for talks about the opening of borders and the subject of unimpeded travel between the two countries.

Ugandans free

Kampala (AFP) - Uganda has released 336 prisoners of war, including 10 children. Only about 600 of the thousands arrested in rebel fighting since 1986 are still in custody.

Climber dies

Kathmandu (Reuters) - George Curry, aged 35, an Australian climber, plunged to his death from the 23,494 ft Mount Purnori, a Himalayan neighbour of Everest.

Sri Lankan guerrillas complete humiliation of Delhi peace-keeping force

Indian shame heightens as reluctant Tamil boy soldiers go home

From Christopher Thomas Madras

In a final mockery of India's entanglement in Sri Lanka, hundreds of captured Tamil boy soldiers - some only 14 years old - are being returned to their parents by the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The boys have battled, if that is not an overstatement, for less than a month against the highly experienced Tigers. Most were forcibly recruited into an Indian-backed group, the Tamil National Army, to fight the Tigers. Most surrendered promptly or fled at the first sign of fighting.

Many gave themselves up to Sri Lankan security forces after making their way out of the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern regions. Many also surrendered to the Tigers, who commandeered

their Indian-supplied weapons. A Tigers official said: "We are always glad when the Indians start handing out more weapons. It doesn't take long for the guns to start finding their way to us."

If there is one permanent legacy of the two-and-a-half-year Indian entanglement on the island, it is the glut of arms now at the disposal of warring Tamil groups.

The timing and circumstances of the final withdrawal of India's remaining 25,000 troops, conditionally due on March 31 under present plans, were discussed in talks between Sri Lankan and Indian officials in Delhi yesterday. Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, may fly to Delhi today if the talks show signs of progress. Sri Lanka would like the pull-out target brought forward unconditionally.

The defeat of the Tamil National

Army is being fully exploited by the Tigers for its undeniable propaganda potential. Their victory has reinforced their tremendous popularity among Tamils of the Northern and Eastern provinces. The Tigers are going out of their way to

Colombo - Sixteen Sinhalese members of the People's Liberation Front were killed by police in the central Kandy district in Sri Lanka yesterday, while Tamil National Army members were reported to have ransacked houses and killed civilians in Jaffna.

reassure the Sinhalese communities in Eastern province that they are safe. Even a few months ago the Tigers filled the Sinhalese with terror. That seems to have given way to a far more trusting atmosphere.

It remains to be seen whether the

new tolerance represents a fundamental change of approach towards non-Tamils in the region, or whether it is short-term expediency until the Indian forces leave.

Sinhalese leaders are optimistic that the Tigers may genuinely be turning into a more conciliatory organization, although there is still a good deal of nervousness.

India is bitterly resented by most Tamils for dragging large numbers of youths into uniform and giving them only rudimentary training before sending them off to fight a highly experienced and motivated guerrilla force. If 50,000 trained Indian soldiers could not crush the Tigers in two-and-a-half years - and more than 1,000 Indians were killed in the attempt - it is hard to see how a much smaller group of youths was supposed to do the job. Scores have died. The toll of non-Tigers in the battle for the eastern

port of Batticaloa alone is put at 100. The security forces announced the release of 370 former Tamil National Army recruits to their parents this week. They had deserted and given themselves up to the military. The Tigers, too, released 150 young people to their parents in the Batticaloa region, the latest of several groups to be returned home.

Lieutenant-General Hamilton Wanasinghe, the Army Commander, promised government protection to those surrendering their arms and returning home. The Government would give protective custody to anybody requesting it.

The Tigers, meanwhile, have put up posters throughout the north and east warning Tamil National Army men to surrender or face "dire consequences".

Indian troops have now pulled

back to the strategic areas of Jaffna in the north and Trincomalee in the north-east, and India has started talking in Madras, directly to the Tigers for the first time in years to try to save the Indian-backed groups from a mauling once the Indian forces have left.

The Tigers have made it plain that their fight will continue until the Tamil National Army is disbanded and the other main Indian-backed organization, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, lays down its arms.

Sri Lanka has formally recognized the Tigers' newly created political party, the People's Front of Liberation. The move brought immediate and fierce protests from Indian-backed rival Tamil groups, which accused Colombo of giving arms, money, vehicles and passports to the Tigers.

British pollution expert denies oil-slick risk to Morocco

From Michael McCarthy Paris

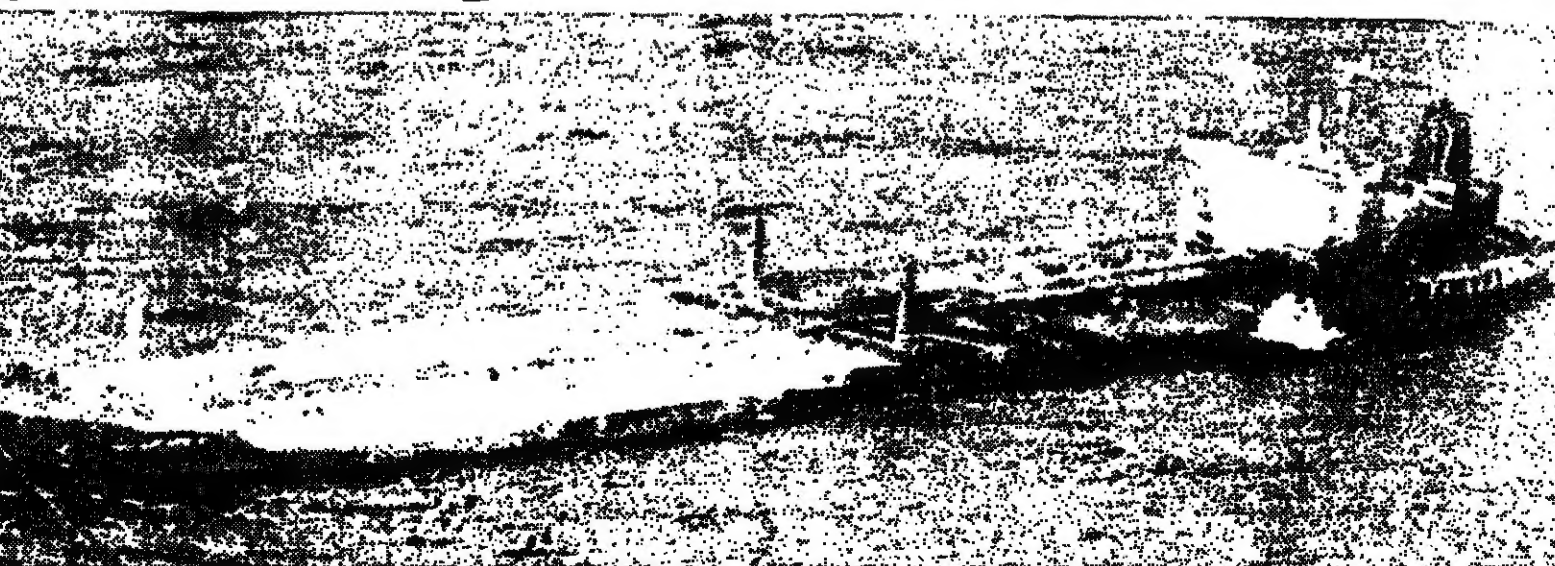
A huge oil slick supposed to be threatening the coast of Morocco with "ecological disaster" is non-existent, one of Britain's leading maritime pollution experts reported last night after spending four hours flying over the area.

Dr Brian Dicks said that oil from the crippled Iranian tanker, Kharg-5, which, it had been reported, was about to engulf the fishing ports, tourist beaches and shellfish beds of the Moroccan Atlantic shore, was dispersing naturally and harmlessly.

He said there was "no sign whatsoever" of the 175-mile-long mass of oil, whose alleged threat to the coast prompted the Moroccan Government to call at the weekend for international help.

Dr Dicks, a marine biologist aged 42, is a senior technical adviser to the London-based International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation, and used to run an oil pollution research centre in Wales.

Late yesterday, he spent four hours in a Moroccan



A tug taking Kharg-5, the crippled Iranian supertanker, away from the area that Morocco says has been polluted by 70,000 tonnes of oil from its cargo.

navy Hercules transport aircraft on four 180-mile sweeps south of Rabat - the first run 15 miles offshore, the second 30 miles out, the third 45, and the fourth 60.

Dr Dicks told *The Times* afterwards: "We saw very little oil. The huge slick which

was meant to be threatening the coast is, in my opinion, non-existent.

"We saw a couple of fairly large patches which are just sheen, but they didn't amount to a couple of tonnes of oil.

"The largest patch was about 10 miles long but that

was largely sheen as well, with patches of the 'chocolate mousse' left behind after the oil breaks up - and there was no more than a few tonnes in that."

Dr Dicks dismissed a suggestion which was made at the weekend by the celebrated

oceanographer, Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau, that the shore was facing "ecological catastrophe".

"The worst I can see happening is some small amounts of oil coming ashore if there is a storm," Dr Dicks said. "If there is no storm,

there will be no coastal pollution at all. The threat has been completely exaggerated."

He said that oil from the tanker, which was abandoned after an explosion on December 19, was particularly light and that he thought at least half had evaporated, with the

tanker was now under tow 200 miles west of the Moroccan fishing port of Safi.

"There is another Iranian tanker with her and they seem to be looking for better weather so that they can lighten the oil off," he said.

Dr Dicks said that if there were no change in the assessment of risk in Morocco, he would return to London soon.

China to let rebel Fang go into exile

From Jonathan Breach Hong Kong

Professor Fang Lulin, the first Chinese to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, has been allowed to leave China and go into exile in Hong Kong.

The professor, who was awarded the prize for his work on the environment, has been in China for many years. He has been a vocal critic of the Chinese government's policies on the environment and human rights.

His wife, who is also a professor, has been allowed to accompany him to Hong Kong. They will be living in a small apartment in the city.

The professor's departure is seen as a victory for the Chinese government, which has been under pressure to allow him to leave. It is also seen as a victory for the Nobel Committee, which has been criticized for awarding the prize to a Chinese official who was a vocal critic of the government.

SPECTRUM

Raiders of the lost civilization

We need to know far more than we do about the Maya. Of all the mysterious civilizations which flourished in the Americas before the Europeans came, theirs was the greatest — and also the most tantalizing, because they alone developed the complete writing system which could enable researchers to gain a real insight into the outlook and motives of their silent generations.

The Maya were architects, mathematicians and astronomers when Europe was still in the Dark Ages. We can still do little more than guess why their great cities, with their massive temples and pyramids, were abandoned to the jungle after their culture had flourished for nearly 3,000 years.

But the evidence is being destroyed today faster than it can be recorded. The civilization's monuments, preserved for 1,000 years because they were swallowed in the rain forests, are now being torn apart by an alliance between local grave-robbers and the international art market.

The art market is helping to destroy Mayan monuments — and our chances of gaining an insight into a mysterious people. George Hill reports

There is a demand for decorated pieces: plain pottery is cast aside, or sometimes embellished with forged idols and written glyphs, confusing the record still further.

Wenner's camera team travelled on foot through the unmapped pathways of the jungle with the grave-robbers, who know the terrain intimately because they earn a marginal legitimate living there, harvesting gum and tropical plants. The team also joined a party of armed guards in the same area, driving in pursuit of robbers along tracks which are impassable to vehicles for nine months of the year. By the time the guards had hacked their way to the scene of the crime, the thieves had been gone for three days.

"No-one has filmed with the looters before, but we did not feel we were in serious danger," says Wenner, who knows Guatemala well, as his father was a diplomat there. "We were told we'd never survive if we got close to them. But it depends on the people and how you treat them."

"Look, even though your children are hungry, you shouldn't be out getting some money in whatever way you can."

A robber who is lucky enough to uncover a well-preserved ancient plate with writing on it may make \$200 or \$300 — more than he could hope to earn in months. By the time the plate goes under the hammer in New York, it is likely to fetch 20 times as much.

The scenes in the film where the robbers tear the tomb apart are not as shocking as those where smooth-voiced representatives of international auction-houses explain that the trade is an exercise in pillage, but in rescue. Even public museums today proudly display acquisitions which must recently have passed through the black market.

International conventions designed to control the trade, such as the UNESCO convention of 1972, give only limited protection. "I believe the UNESCO treaty specifically defines that for items to be stolen, they would have to be from a museum or some kind of institution, and I don't believe sites are a part of that," says John Marion, a Sotheby's director, in the film.

"The great contribution of the market place has been to endow objects with monetary value, so that they have a chance of surviving, of being taken care of," the American dealer Andre Emmerich declares in the film.

American country with limited resources "cannot properly pay for its national treasures, the rest of the world will take care of them as they should be cared for."

The implications of the market's operation are graphically displayed in the film. Monuments are shown brutally sawn apart. Far from "rescuing" the objects they find, the looters uncover them from the graves that have protected them for centuries, and throw away most of what they find.

The film shows a great stone stele which was cut away from a monument not long ago and then abandoned face upwards in the undergrowth, where the rain will eventually obliterate it if it is not saved. Sad as this remnant is, it gives a silent reply to one of the market's favourite sophistries, and also offers a scrap of hope for the future.

Dealers often claim that the villagers will go on robbing graves whatever happens, and that when they buy the booty they are simply ensuring that it gets a secure home. In fact, the stele was probably discarded because international attitudes towards the theft of stone monuments have hardened in recent years. The robbers who had laboriously cut the stele from its place, and had begun to move it towards a road, realised that it was no longer marketable and dropped it where it lay.

But no such change has occurred in the market for pottery and small items. Responding to demand, the robbers have accordingly begun to leave the surface of the temples alone. Instead, they began to dig into their interiors, doing far more damage.

"Since the United States passed laws of its own against the trade in sculptured architectural materials, the bottom has fallen out of that market," says Wenner.

"That shows that action by an individual customer nation can have an effect. But most countries involved in the trade have not even signed the UNESCO convention. They include Britain, though there is evidence that London is a conduit for black market goods on their way elsewhere."

"Without a major change in attitudes at the receiving end, there is little hope of any real improvement."



History in ruins: Mayan steles such as this, at the Tikal site, are cut up by robbers and end up in salerooms

A most engaging family

During the past 10 years, the Royal Family has consistently increased the number of official engagements it has undertaken. According to the Court Circular, it now carries out double the number of engagements compared with 1980.

The lion's share of this extra work has been accomplished by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and the Princess Royal. However, the Gloucesters and the Kents have nearly doubled their official workload. Princess Alexandra carried out 66 overseas engagements last year in addition to her UK appointments.

Statistics need to be treated with caution, none more so than those relating to Royal family engagements (see Letters, page 11). Each royal engagement is unique, in the amount of time taken in briefing beforehand and then carrying it out on the day. For example, the Queen will spend part of the preceding day preparing for an investiture, which will take all the following morning. All this counts as one engagement, while on the same morning the Princess Royal might fulfil three

The Royal Family's official engagements have doubled in a decade — but is that the full story?

engagements in Ipswich. Official visits abroad imply a rest from the daily round of work. However, Prince Philip made nine speeches during his six-day visit to the United States and Canada last May. During her visit to Singapore and Malaysia, lasting two weeks, the Queen carried out 72 engagements and gave 37 audiences to leaders attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The practice of equating the number of engagements with amounts received from the Civil List produces a misleading value-for-money league table. The Civil List is used to pay the salaries of staff and to defray the cost of official entertaining — such as state visits and garden parties. It is not a salary to members of the Royal family. Indeed, the Prince of Wales receives no Civil List payment. He keeps three-quarters of the income from the Duchy of Cornwall,

the remainder going to the Treasury. A more intriguing exercise would be to discover how much money is raised for charity as a result of Royal encouragement or patronage. Royal holidays are not officially announced, so comment on their duration is misguided. The Queen is never parted from the dispatch boxes she receives each day. With the Duke of Edinburgh, she is involved in the management of the royal estates, entertaining official guests and other important duties. Just because they are at Balmoral or Sandringham does not mean that every day spent there is holiday.

Work in connection with a book on the environment written by Prince Philip went unrecorded in the Court Circular, as did the Prince of Wales's television programme and book, *A Vision of Britain*.

The Duke of Gloucester attends meetings as a Trustee of the British Museum, and these also go unreported.

The Duke of York, as a naval lieutenant, and Prince Edward, in regular employment, are not able to carry out a full programme of engagements. However, Prince Edward has taken on responsibilities for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and other charities and made three official visits abroad — to the Soviet Union, Malta and Lichtenstein — in 1989.

The Queen Mother carried out the same number of engagements last year as she did 10 years ago. This remarkable performance included a six-day tour of eastern Canada when she carried out 15 engagements.

Royal engagements are usually undertaken at the request of others, and many more have to be refused than accepted. So from their increasing activity it can be fairly assumed that the Royal family is as popular as ever.

Tim O'Donovan
The author is a London insurance broker who has kept records of official royal engagements since 1979.

New year, American style

I have just received a belated Christmas card from my American friends Jeff and Mabel Du Lally, every bit as chatty as usual. In the great American tradition, they have included a lively and enjoyable rundown of what each member of the family has achieved over the past year.

Even though few, if any, readers of *The Times* will know the Du Lallys personally, I would like to pass on some of their good news so as to lend sparkle to our own rather lacklustre British new year.

"This has been a great, great year for the Du Lallys," begins their Christmas printout. "Jeff and Mabel (yes, folks, that's not HJ) are happy to announce that they have settled all their inter-personal relationship difficulties and Jeff's leg will shortly be out of plaster. We would both like to pay tribute to our beautiful counsellor, Shree Ram Vishnu Perikles, who taught us that each of us has only six lives, and it is up to us not to waste a single one of them, even the first. We now count Shree as a valued member of our family, and we know that those of you who come to stay with us in the new year will value the opportunity of chatting with us and Shree before meals, after television and to greet the dawn."

"And so to our children. Charlene found that the boundaries imposed by an academic environment are too restricting on her wide range of hobbies and interests, so she has quit Slipshod City High to pursue her goals in television. She is now able to boast that she has watched all the Lucille Ball shows three times over, and can relate many of the more hilarious scenarios by heart and has already built up a good working knowledge of the early Mary Tyler Moore."

"Andy has continued to enjoy his thrice-weekly visits to Dr Herman S. Manster, the leading analyst, and he has taken to re-birth like a duck to water, his daily primal screams acting as a valuable alarm clock for those of us who wish to rise at 3am! He has now switched to Dr Kurt P. Kllrov, an acknowledged expert at talking the patient through their original transmas as a spermatozoon and Andy now spends much of his day raking head-long into doors with great gusto."

"This year, we celebrate a marvelous new addition to our home with the arrival of Jeff's dear, dear mom, grandmaw Du Lally, who came to us in the fall after the Committee of Janitors at the Final Certain Home suggested that her boundless sense of fun could be better catered for in the home environment, where she could enjoy round-the-clock supervision."

"Grandmaw is now a great help around the house, taking care that half-full bottles are emptied at once, before ordering impromptu doorstep singalongs from the Gershwin songbook for our neighbours, Fred and Lindy Stoneface, and even taking charge of the kitchen, producing good ol' home-cooked dishes just like grandmaw used to cook 'em, such as Char Broiled Salad and



CRAIG BROWN

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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Overworked MPs can look forward to a more leisurely 1990 with the reintroduction of pairing. I can exclusively reveal. The system was abolished by Labour after the 1983 election, when the large intake of new left-wing MPs felt that collaborating with Tories to get an evening off and miss a Commons vote was at odds with their class-warrior image. Seven years and many wasted late nights later, most MPs have come to realize that life is a lot easier with a little cross-party collaboration — as several old-timers on the Labour side who have discreetly maintained their pairs could have told them. One such is Andrew Faulds, who has paired for years with Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He is delighted by the Labour whips' change of heart, though he does not care for the way they slap three-line obligatory attendance on "every little bit of trivial business". Faulds is particularly aggrieved because while pairing has not been officially recognized, he and colleagues with informal pairs have been continually marked down as absent without leave, which does not always go down well with their constituents.

One Labour MP who will continue to disdain pairing is Dennis Skinner. Soon after he arrived at Westminster in 1970, the Heath government staged a series of late-night votes on its family income supplement proposals. Before the first vote, Skinner was approached by a Tory MP who asked if he was "ready to go". Skinner replied: "If you want to go, then you go." Taking this as an agreement to pair, the Tory went home. Skinner stayed and voted, and the government majority fell by one. The same thing happened for the second vote. The next morning, Skinner was hauled up before Bob Mellish, Labour's formidable chief whip of the time, who accused him, among other things, of undermining the basis of parliamentary democracy. "I've not come here to pair with Tories," an unrepentant Skinner told him. "I've met your sort before." Mellish replied, "fresh-faced newcomers who think they can buck the system. You'll be pairing like the rest of us within twelve months." Nearly 20 years later, Skinner has still never paired and last year recorded the highest attendance of any MP, beating even the whips on both sides for the number of times he trooped through the voting lobby.

BARRY FANTONI



One of the less successful parliamentary campaigns of 1989 was Labour MP Joe Ashton's attempt to have real ale served in the many bars of the Palace of Westminster. For the past year he has been trying to persuade the Commons catering committee, and its chairman, Conservative MP Sir Charles Irving, that it is unacceptable that the nation's legislators (and political journalists) should have to drink in "the only pub in the West End which doesn't serve real ale". Unfortunately, Ashton says, the Westminster cellars have been hijacked to store fine French wines so that "the beautiful real beer of Britain cannot find a place in its own Parliament". He seemed to have accepted defeat when I spoke to him yesterday, consoling himself with the small victory of persuading the powers-that-be to stock Urquell Pilsner, a real ale from Czechoslovakia which comes in 1/4 pint bottles. It's not for the MPs, who never touch anything stronger than mineral water, Ashton explains. But guests do like a good pint.

We have not heard the last of Professor Sir Alan Walters. The first draft of his book on the events which led to his resignation and that of Nigel Lawson will be delivered this week to Graham Mather, director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, which is due to publish it, in association with Collins, in April. Walters has also paid several visits to his former employer at 10 Downing Street and will probably see her again when he is in London next month for an international monetary conference organized by the IEA. Anxious to appear even-handed, the IEA has asked Sir Alan to chair the session on the globalization of finance. That on European monetary union has been left to Sam Britan, a vigorous supporter of the former chancellor.

"I'm John Gielgud," I say. "I'm Paul Scofield," says Hugh Lloyd. Dinsdale Landon leans across the formica and strikes a raffish pose. "And I'm Edith Evans." Unblinkingly, the stage doorkeeper hands us the keys to our dressing rooms, which are all named after famous stars, and we shuffle on up for the matinee. "My knees are killing me," I whine. "I'm glad to hear it," says Dinsdale. "So are mine. I had dinner with one of the country's top psychiatrists — or maybe she was a psychologist. Anyway she knew immediately what it was." I move a stage weight to keep my door ajar so that "we can yell at each other down the corridor." Hugh lets Death in through the pass door. "We all express tension through different parts of our bodies," I can hear familiar

In his campaign to put suspected Nazi war criminals on trial in Britain, Greville Janner MP has been understandably emotional. Many of his relatives died in the Baltic states during the war, victims of the Final Solution. The difficulty of prosecuting men in their seventies who are accused of crimes that took place more than 45 years ago has not discouraged Janner from his crusade, which produced the decisive vote in Parliament last month to allow the trials. "I want these people to get the fair trial my family never had," Janner said.

But can any jurisdiction give them a fair trial? Their conviction will depend on two factors: documentary evidence, largely from the Soviet Union, and eyewitness identification. Questions about the evidence from the Soviet Union are manifest. But perhaps more troubling still are the difficulties with identification procedures.

Human memory is fallible, even about recent events. In 1976, after the false conviction of a Bristol man for robbery and wounding (solely on eyewitness evidence), the Devlin inquiry tried to lay down rules for identification procedures. The inquiry concluded that courts

can protect the falsely accused only by increasing the burden of proof. But in the anguish that surrounds war crimes, the face-to-face identification of the accused by people who claim to have been their victims has a special weight.

Neil Sher, director of the US Office of Special Investigation (set up to investigate war criminals) was quoted in *The Times* recently as saying that key witnesses could accurately recall facts and sights because of the horror of their experiences. Evidence does not bear him out.

In the late 1970s, 12 Polish Jews identified Frank Walus, a Pole living in Chicago, as a vicious Nazi. "I will never forget that face," declared Josef Koenigsberg, who identified him as a particularly brutal Gestapo officer who had beaten up his father and shot Jews. The atrocities Koenigsberg had seen were real enough, but the face was not the same. After an investigation,

the case against Walus was dropped. "We made a mistake," said the US prosecutor, and the court recommended that Walus be compensated.

A recent book by Professor Willem Wagenaar, an authority on forensic identification, details the wide margin of error in human memory and in identification procedures. Wagenaar was a defence witness in the 1987-88 trial in Jerusalem of John Demjanjuk, a Cleveland factory worker found guilty of being the death camp guard nicknamed Ivan the Terrible. His book, *Identifying Ivan*, is in part a justification of his testimony, but its detailed review of the problems involved in identification techniques is important.

In the cases of Demjanjuk and Walus, for example, identification was made more difficult by the way Jewish prisoners related to their Nazi torturers. Eye contact was dangerous because it could be provocative, so pris-

oners learned never to look their guards directly in the face. In addition, most guards and Gestapo officers always wore caps in the presence of prisoners. Factors like these have to be considered, along with the physical changes which a man undergoes in 40 years or more, as well as memory fluctuations.

Such considerations are called estimator variables. To date, the only study of the specific estimator variables in the memories of death-camp survivors is one by Wagenaar and Groeneweg (1988). That study, based on the case of an NCO in a penal colony, suggests that memories are quite unreliable. For example, in 1984 a picture of the accused was shown to 55 witnesses who had suffered brutally under him in the camp; 41 witnesses (or 75 per cent) recognized him, but 14 did not. However, when those who had seen his face on television were discounted, the result was different. He was recognized by only 58 per cent.

System variables, on the other hand, are those related to the investigative procedure. What sort of photograph selection were the witnesses shown? Was the procedure in line with the Devlin recommendations that they be shown photographs that resemble the suspect, or did the suspect stand out as the only broad-faced Ukrainian? In a line-up, were they told that the suspect might not even be present? Were the foils chosen to resemble the suspect? What length of recognition time was allowed to witnesses? What was the false identification rate for a line-up in which the suspect was not present? In the case of John Demjanjuk, virtually every one of the Devlin recommendations for correct identification procedures was abrogated. Many people believe that the moral issues relating to war crimes trials are simple. I think

they are quite complex. We may have to deal with accused men who genuinely believed the official Nazi view of the "Jewish menace" propagated by their superiors. Does this aggravate their crimes or mitigate them? Do we propose to hold people in a totalitarian state as responsible for their choices as those in a free state? If the men we are singling out for prosecution are distinguished by their brutality (no small accomplishment in the Third Reich, which was run by mass murderers), they must have been psychopaths.

But psychopaths are distinguished by their inability to live within the law. What are we to make of the uneventful lives that people like John Demjanjuk lived in the 45 years since the war? Are they rehabilitated? Cured? Even if this is so, how can those of us who believe that retribution is a part of justice come to terms with leaving them unpunished? For some of us, the impossibility of these questions, coupled with the evidence difficulties, leads to one conclusion: that these old Nazis have lost their power to harm us in every way except one, namely, in their ability to force us to twist and distort our system of justice in order to catch them.

Barbara Amiel finds the evidence so unreliable as to be unjust

War crimes: a flimsy case

Make compassion compulsory

Continuing our series on reforms for the 1990s, Julia Neuberger puts the case for an income tax surcharge that would go to charity

Evidence is mounting that the tax cuts of the last 10 years have not engendered a more generous spirit among the taxpayer public. The theory that people with more disposable wealth would willingly increase their donations to charity has taken something of a knock.

Britons give only £3-£4.5 billion a year in charity, with a large proportion of that given by a few major donors. Those in the age group 25-44, who have most benefited from the Thatcher years, have not nearly increased their giving in line with their increase in wealth; indeed, 17 per cent of them give nothing to charity at all. The average donation by the population as a whole is a mere £2 per month, a figure which compares extremely unfavourably with that in the United States. Only 2.7 per cent of Britons give between £40 and £500 a month, while 40 per cent give £1 or less.

Payroll giving — the government scheme which encourages employees to authorize a given deduction from their salary — has got off to a slow start, with only £8-£9 million a year coming in from approximately 130,000 donors. It can be argued that the scheme has been less than successful because it is not sufficiently well known; the Government gave a paltry £50,000 to publicize the campaign, and did not publish details of it from the Central Office of Information, but there is another reason why the scheme is unsuccessful.

Though we in Britain react magnificently to disaster appeals

when our heart-strings are pulled and we see on television starving children or desperate conditions in refugee camps, we are less good at the day-to-day, planned charitable giving that is essential if many voluntary organizations and small associations are to keep going.

In recent years the British have not had a tradition of regular giving. However, loath the Government may be to make anything compulsory, it should think again about the whole charitable scene, and realize that for charities to function properly, a quite different attitude to charitable giving must prevail.

Philanthropy has to be encouraged and admired. It must also become part of our culture. There is no point in exhorting people to give without offering advantages to the givers. Current schemes, by which charities receive the entire sum given, free of income tax, are only the beginning, as is payroll giving.

So the reform I would most like to see in the 1990s is a charity tax, either as a 1 per cent addition to the standard rate of income tax, or a designation of 1 per cent of present tax revenues, introduced perhaps at a time when the tax rate would otherwise have fallen.

This would have distinct advantages. Taxpayers would for the first time be directly able to choose where at least part of their taxes goes. They could even choose not to direct their 1 per cent to charities, in which case it would go into normal tax revenues.



But most people would give it to charity, and they would be able to specify which one. Any registered charity would be eligible to benefit, and the money could be distributed by the Charities Aid Foundation Grants Committee, in the way that money is distributed from the sale of the Post Office's Christmas stamps.

Meanwhile, the Charities Aid Foundation would be able to make a small handling charge for the service. This would be slightly more than cost-covering, to enable it to help those charities which are less popular

with the public, and are in consequence desperately needy.

Some may argue that it goes against the spirit of charity to make it compulsory, but many religions have a legal entitlement to, say, 10 per cent or 2.5 per cent of income. The title for the maintenance of the Temple in the Biblical period and for the church in later Europe was not given voluntarily and received with effusive thanks; it was expected. Indeed, the Hebrew for what is normally translated as charity means social justice, a form of balancing up, rather than voluntary giving. Germany still

has its *Kirchensteuer* or church tax, which goes to maintain the churches and to some of the church charities as well. Insistence on giving is not without precedent.

Of course, voluntary giving must continue. Those who already give more than 1 per cent of their tax bill would no doubt continue to do so, but a large number of people would be giving to charity on a regular and organized basis for the first time. And a 1 per cent additional tax could not be said to be punitive.

Indeed, it would have advantages for the education of the

public, as well as for the charities. The educational force of such a measure should not be underestimated. Even if only a relatively small amount of individual income were taken up in this way, the principle would be established that giving is everybody's business, and that it is a normal part of living in a society like ours. It would make everyone realize that, whatever provision is made by the welfare state, a great deal of support and answering of need takes place through the voluntary and charitable sectors, often without central or local government grants.

Many companies have accepted this argument. The Per Cent Club consists of 268 national companies who give to charity either 0.5 per cent of their UK pre-tax profits or 1 per cent of their dividends. The trend is growing, with local Per Cent Clubs being established in Sheffield and the north-east. Companies do this for a variety of reasons, including the wish to set an example. They will not want to see this enforced by law. They would rather it were voluntary.

But if companies are beginning to learn that this is the right way to behave, individuals are slow to follow. Although it may seem authoritarian, a charity tax should be introduced as an improvement for the 1990s.

One per cent on top of basic rate tax would realize about £1.5 billion, and even if some people were to decide that this would be their only contribution, it would still mean vastly increased revenue for the charities, because it would bring in the 40 per cent of low givers. Far more people would thus be drawn into the web of giving. The charities would benefit, and so would society at large.

Rabbi Neuberger is visiting fellow at the King's Fund Institute.

Upheaval again on the path to free markets

Rodney Lord on East Europe's problems in shaking off state control

Poland's signature of a letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund just before Christmas is the signal for a shower of gold to descend from all points of the compass. Apart from the \$725 million of bridging finance which the agreement will bring from the IMF, at least \$1 billion of longer-term development loans will be made available by the World Bank, another \$1 billion may come from the EC's proposed stabilization fund, and official debts will be re-scheduled by the Western government lenders in the "Paris Club".

Bilateral aid negotiations, including up to \$1 billion from West Germany, can also proceed. The money will certainly come in handy. Poland is effectively bankrupt. While the Poles have been careful to pay the interest on commercial bank loans more or less on time, the country has over many years frequently defaulted on its official debts. An infusion of hard currency will also help to tackle inflation, which is currently running at around 700 per cent (nobody is sure of the precise

figure, and at this level perhaps it does not matter).

Yet the money is no more than an emergency transfusion. It will maintain economic life, but it will not bring economic health. That is a far more difficult operation. No one has ever converted a command economy to a market economy before. To do so requires the ability to return to first principles, and great political and managerial sophistication.

At its simplest, the problem facing all East European economies is the same: to abolish allocation by the state, and to allow prices to be determined by supply and demand. This is true not only in the market for goods and services, but also in the labour market (where wages must be allowed to vary), in the foreign exchanges (where there must be currency convertibility) and in the capital market (where the allocation of capital by bureaucrats must be superseded by commercial lending decisions at varying interest rates).

After a generation or more of economic activity directed by the party, these notions are barely understood in most East European countries. Although Hungary has advanced furthest along the road towards liberalization, basic foods, fuel and clothing are still heavily subsidized. A bus ride of up to 10 miles in Budapest costs 5 forints, which is about 5p.

In the financial sector, some progress has been made. In the past, investment funds to industry were allocated by the National Bank in line with the latest economic plan. Now commercial banks compete for the business and are moving towards a more flexible interest rate structure to reflect varying risk. In principle, the National Bank now acts more like a Western-style central bank, but the financial bureaucracy is not finding it easy to adjust to new ways, and there is considerable tension between the two tiers.

One of the most difficult concepts to embrace is bank-

ruptcy. Hungarian law now makes provision for the banks to wind up companies, but they do not yet do so. The idea that enterprises can fail and employees be thrown out of work is politically uncomfortable, and suggests the need for a social security system to provide support which has previously come through the payroll of state-controlled industry.

In Poland, where the new Solidarity government has to swallow the medicine quickly so that recovery can begin, prices have rapidly been de-controlled. Rationing by price has in many instances already replaced rationing by queue.

Poland already has a private sector in which the wage controls and overmanning that pervade the state sector can be avoided. In a few cases, state enterprises have made the system look foolish by contracting out nearly all their functions to reconstituted private companies, leaving only a few nightwatchmen to form the workers' council of the

state-run shell. But generally, wage structures are inflexible and overmanning is endemic; and there is virtually no market in skills.

The answer, the government believes, is privatization. Krzysztof Lis has been appointed Plenipotentiary for Ownership Changes, and is preparing an extensive programme of public flotations on the still-to-be-established stock exchange. But the uncertainties facing investors make doubts over the flotation of, say, British Gas look trifling. Investors are uncertain not only about the application of the regulatory regime, but about the whole economic system.

With a more flexible labour market comes the need for a flexible tax system. Most East European countries have no personal income tax, all tax economic into market economies, but they are not enough in themselves. The hard work is still to come. Without economic freedom, political freedom may prove a frail flower.

value added tax. Ironically, these would require a skilled new bureaucracy.

Company tax also needs reform. East European countries almost all levy taxes on turnover, eliminating the incentive to increase productivity; taxes should be levied instead on profit. But accounting skills are mostly rudimentary. At every turn the desire to move from one system to another is handicapped by lack of the infrastructure to service the new system.

The IMF has discussed all these issues, along with the harsh question of public spending, with the Polish and Hungarian governments. Poland has agreed to make deep cuts in spending and to exert firm control over monetary expansion by raising real interest rates. Establishing the right macro-economic framework and providing capital resources are prerequisites of success in converting command economies into market economies, but they are not enough in themselves. The hard work is still to come. Without economic freedom, political freedom may prove a frail flower.

Oh Gielgud, lend me your knees



GRIFF RHYS JONES

rattling and wheezing. Dinsdale is spraying his hair silver. "With us it must be our knees."

"So it doesn't have anything to do with charging about like demented shrews for two and a half hours every night?" I ask.

Each actor takes a different route to the peak of preparedness. Hugh, who shares Paul Scofield with Death, now has only 35 minutes to transform himself into a walrus, a haddock, a goldfish or an under-cooked tortoise (depending on which critic's zoological ramblings you prefer). He scratches his stomach through his vest, lights a cigarette and telephones his wife to find out how things are going with Chester FC.

Peter Carlisle is already Death the butler, and he doesn't come on until the middle of the third act. He raises his eyebrows. "Last night a lady asked me how long I took to put on my make-up," he says ruefully. (He doesn't wear any make-up.)

Dinsdale has now covered himself with toothpaste. He is not a careless dental hygienist. It makes his moustache ends stiff and bristly. And he smells fresh and zingy too.

"Necyayh!" he shouts to no one in particular, easing open his vocal chords and revving up his epiglottis.

I read a letter from a local policewoman, written on purple paper with orange floral trimmings, pick my teeth and change my socks. On the wall, a postcard-sized colour photograph of Sir John Gielgud leaning against an antique urn looks on. In Hugh's

room there is no Paul Scofield, but on the back wall there is evidence that Rolf Harris has been in. In a spare moment, he has plastered up a mauve-and-peach vista of the Australian desert, or wait a moment, perhaps that is Paul Scofield, leaning on a gum tree after an accident in a paint factory? We must get Robert Hughes in to give us an opinion.

I am jumping about in the corridor. A strong hint of spear-mint fills the air. Dinsdale pops out of Edith Evans. "I used to do that sort of preparation," he says. "I'm just trying to get my knees to bend."

"Edith Evans used to sit on the stage and stare at the auditorium for half an hour."

"She was on a percentage. She was counting the seats."

When I was in *Arturo Ui* I took pains to become Adolf Hitler. They banned me from the office after I stuck my desk in the middle of the room and launched a blitzkrieg on Rushmore Place. In *Thark* I play an idiot. I need less time to find my character.

"Hook!"

"Sah!"

Dinsdale and Hugh find theirs. Dinsdale expounds a plan for buying up the few remaining tickets for the show and setting up as touts in King Street. Hugh gives me the ten note I have

to give him later on stage, so that I can give it to him later on stage, and lumbars off to start the play. With less than five minutes left, I decide to find my character if I can remember where I put him.

get my call, make a last attempt at a straight centre parting, drag on a coat which I will drag off again immediately I get on stage, and carefully lock John Gielgud behind me. (It plays havoc with quick changes, but hampers the burglars.)

Halfway up the prompt-side stairs, I stop. I go back to my dressing room, carefully unlock the door and get my hat. It's marvellous how one's characterization creeps up on one almost without one's being aware of it. I go back up the stairs and run around like a demented shrew for six hours or thereabouts. Then I go home at last and rest my aching knees.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE WEIZMAN AFFAIR

The latest quarrel in Israel's coalition Government has been patched up by the usual compromise. It has, however, resurrected a wider issue which will not be so easily resolved.

Crisis threatened the left-right coalition on Sunday when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, sacked Mr Ezer Weizman, his Science Minister. The charge was that Mr Weizman, a hawk turned dove, had been talking to Israel's enemy, the Palestine Liberation Organization. All contact with the PLO, still seen in Jerusalem as a terrorist organization, was forbidden by law in 1986.

President Herzog offered to intervene as a left/right fissure reopened in the Government. But Mr Weizman himself proffered a deal. He kept his science portfolio in the Government, but resigned from the policy-making inner Cabinet.

Against the constantly shifting Middle-Eastern backdrop, the incident itself will probably soon be forgotten. By last night, Government officials in Jerusalem were more concerned with the report from Amnesty International which is critical of Israel's response to the intifada.

The episode none the less bears examination at several levels. In terms of domestic politics, for example, it has strengthened Mr Shamir's own position. He has demonstrated his authority as Prime Minister on what is an important point of principle.

While backing their Cabinet colleague Mr Weizman, the Labour Party's support was constrained. To have opted out of the coalition Government might have implied that the party was in favour of developing contacts with the PLO. Yet not only is Labour officially against this — Israel's electorate would seem to be so, too.

Opinion polls conducted since the weekend have suggested that Israelis were fairly evenly divided on whether Mr Weizman should be sacked. As many as 70 per cent, however, opposed his contacts with the PLO. The terrorist attack on a Jerusalem-Tel Aviv bus last summer, in which 16 Israelis died, hardened attitudes throughout the country. To bring down the coalition at such a time and on

such an issue would have led the Labour Party towards an election which it would assuredly have lost.

As it is, Mr Shamir has prompted Labour leaders like Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin to re-state their opposition to the idea of treating with the PLO. This might not mean a change in their position. But by humbling the maverick Mr Weizman, exposing the current frailty of his friends and demonstrating the underlying unity of the Government (on this issue, at any rate), he has sent a powerful signal across the Atlantic.

The Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers are due to have talks in Washington this month with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Near the top of the agenda when they meet will be the question of Palestinian representation in any discussions over the next stage of the peace process.

Mr Baker's five-point formula to help pave the way for elections in the occupied territories has itself caused divisions in Israel's Cabinet. While Labour has been in favour of going along with it, Mr Shamir and his Likud colleagues have been sceptical, and have not concealed their suspicions of indirect PLO involvement. Mr Shamir has now managed to underline his message that the PLO are not even on the short list.

This leaves the issue of Palestinian representation more difficult than ever. Israel is placing its faith in the emergence of a new Arab leadership on the West Bank. But it is difficult to envisage the emergence of any leaders who do not have the blessing of the PLO. Perhaps Jerusalem would settle for representatives who, while acceptable to Mr Yasser Arafat, would not feel beholden to him — and would not turn the West Bank and Gaza into more of a PLO enclave than they already are.

There are those who believe that at some stage Israel will have to accept some degree of PLO involvement, however indirect. The effect of the Weizman affair, however, must be to defer that prospect *sine die*. It has ruled out any imminent chance of compromise on one of the bigger obstacles to peace. In that respect, its impact will be a lasting one.

HOME AND DRIER

Today's statistics on drink and driving over the Christmas and New Year holiday period are likely to provide further evidence that a substantial change in public attitude and behaviour has taken place in the past five or 10 years. It is a remarkable transformation, and many innocent people must have escaped death or serious injury as a result of it. It would be a great mistake, however, to conclude that the problem is therefore virtually solved. On the contrary new measures are justified to ensure that the trend continues in future years.

The evidence of a significant change in public attitude is corroborated by recent surveys which show a high degree of public approval for the introduction of random testing. Most chief police officers favour it; so does Mr Robert Atkins, the Minister for Roads and Traffic. There are some habitual drinking drivers who will never be persuaded to change their ways by appeals to conscience or the threat of public shame. For them, the introduction of random testing is likely to be the only effective deterrent. There is still time to put the legislation on the statute book by next Christmas, and the Government would do well to prepare it forthwith.

To a certain extent the proportion of motorists found by police roadside tests to be above the limit is a measure not of the degree to which motorists drink and drive but of the skill of the police at spotting them on the road once they have done so. An experienced traffic patrolman will have an expert's intuition for the subtle hesitations and irregularities which indicate the influence of drink on driving performance. The better he is at it, the higher will be his score, measured as the ratio of those over the limit to the total of those he has stopped and tested.

The national statistics are highly sensitive to police operational policy, therefore, and could even mask underlying trends of a different sort. They cannot be taken by themselves as scientific proof of a change in public behaviour. For instance any move in the direction of random breath testing, such as the device

recently employed by some police forces of stopping vehicles for mechanical tests while looking out for the slightest indications of drink, will make the statistics even more difficult to interpret.

Truly random testing, which is still just outside the scope of police powers at present, would also produce a statistical distortion, for random testing would not eliminate the need for targeting; and the ratio of those stopped to those found to be at fault would still reflect targeting policy. The proportion of randomly tested motorists over the limit on a Saturday afternoon will inevitably be different from the proportion eight hours later.

At present police tactics on roadside breath-testing vary from region to region: there are some who try to maximize their visible impact as a sophisticated exercise in public education; some who merely seek, in the spirit of more traditional policing, to catch as many delinquent drink-drivers as possible. The power to conduct random tests would have a different effect on the statistics in each case.

It would certainly enhance the public education approach. But it must be less certain that existing police powers, properly used, really do allow many cases to slip through the net. It is virtually unheard of for a motorist to plead successfully in court that though he was found to be above the limit, the result of the test ought to be set aside because he had given no grounds for the minimum degree of suspicion which the law now requires.

None the less random testing would deal a mortal blow to the self-delusion of the driver who believes that he is able to disguise the quantity of alcohol he has taken by his ability to drive with his normal amount of skill. And it would be the appropriate one, for it is a well known consequence of drink that it induces over-confidence. The knowledge that he could be stopped and tested regardless of his performance, and regardless of his giving grounds for suspicion, would be a powerful deterrent.

A KIND OF PEACE?

There is no end to the useful lessons of East Europe's liberation. Mr John Hume, of Northern Ireland's SDLP, asked in his New Year message whether the Provisional IRA was now the only organization left in Europe which needed guns to achieve its objectives. He concluded, less hyperbolically, that any organization enjoying the support of "less than 5 per cent of the Irish people and which insists on enforcing its will on those people by force can justifiably be described as oppressors or dictators." To illustrate his point, the IRA killed a taxi driver and injured his 16-year-old daughter yesterday morning, the first death from terrorism in 1990.

It is, sadly, improbable that Mr Hume's freedom cry will be taken to heart by those who sustain, shelter and finance the handful of men and women who dole out so much death, disability and grief. But he is absolutely right to remind us that they enjoy neither mandate nor moral justification.

However right the general point, Mr Hume is as short as the rest of his political colleagues in the province on practical steps to achieve his stated aim. The Bishop of Down and Connor yesterday called for talks between politicians to look for a settlement to the problem; it is unlikely to be heeded. One of the province's magazines this week reproduces a headline which appeared before Christmas in *The Irish News*: "Hope raised by courtesy of Nicholson talks refusal".

None of this is to deride the yearning for peace and reconciliation which is felt by local politicians as much as by anyone. But it does suggest that "politics" — broadly defined as

society's organization — is carried on by other means than politicians. Or at least that the society has lost interest in province-wide politics and is concentrating on smaller, more easily achievable, schemes to order itself better. The business of securing society against entirely unaccountable paramilitary conspiracies is left to the police and army. That grim business only now becomes a subject for public discussion when the accountability of security force methods itself is an issue.

The twentieth anniversary last summer of the deployment of British troops on the streets of Northern Ireland passed in relative peace. One statistic of the year-end carries a small hope that a kind of peace may be returning. The 1989 total of deaths in Northern Ireland "caused by the security situation" fell to 62; for each of the previous two years it had been 93.

Too much can be made of such statistics. The total for 1986 was 61; since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985, the death rate has risen. One atrocity can transform the numbers.

The Agreement, however well justified as long-term policy, was traumatically offensive to unionists. It was also alarming to the IRA, who correctly recognized that it signalled an agreement between Britain and Ireland that what they held in common — a long-term interest in the suffocation of the IRA — was more important than any short-term differences. If yesterday's death forms part of a still smaller total of deaths for the year just begun, it may show that the slow decline of violence is resuming.

Slow wheels of justice

From Mr Geoffrey C. Honnywill

Sir, The Government claims that it gives high priority to maintaining law and order and upholding the high standard of British justice. But these claims are not consistent with its actions. By under-funding the whole legal system and exposing the profession to unequal commercial competition the Government is seriously undermining justice.

Both criminal and civil courts are subject to delays which 10 years ago were unthinkable, e.g., a letter written to Bromley County Court will almost certainly not be read for two months and may not be answered until a typist is available several weeks later still. In criminal cases, trials take place years after the event, while wrongly accused people suffer and the memories of witnesses inevitably deteriorate. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Lawyers frequently have to wait 12 months or more to be paid legal fees due to them. Here shortage of staff to assess bills, itself due to under-funding, helps delay payments — to the obvious advantage of the Treasury and disadvantage of the legal profession. While the Department of Trade and Industry encourages large companies to pay small ones promptly, why doesn't the Government pay the profession accordingly?

Provincial solicitors are being seriously weakened by the malaise in domestic conveyancing, brought about by high interest rates and the reaction to the Government's admitted mismanagement of the property market in March/July, 1988. I understand some solicitors have responded to the Lord Chancellor's request for bigger and more specialised firms are now among those suffering most. The Law Society is receiving a steady stream of requests from members in southern England for advice about what to do with their clients and practices if they go bankrupt.

The Government chooses this time to introduce the Courts and Legal Services Bill which will result in solicitors having to compete with banks and building societies for probate and conveyancing work. When David went out against Golding he had five stones in his pouch, but most solicitors have no such ammunition. Instead they have their bank managers on their backs. Yours faithfully, GODFREY C. HONNYWILL, Bus Mutton (Solicitors), The Priory, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, December 22.

School budgets

From Mr G. R. Savory

Sir, You report (December 28) concern that under the scheme for the local management of schools if budgets for teaching wages are set at average rather than real costs some teachers' jobs will be put at risk.

The system would have further disadvantages: even where staffing levels were not reduced older staff would mean less money for other things (e.g., books, sport, materials for science and technology); appointments committees might not select the best candidate for a post but prefer instead one who would cost less; and teachers would find increasing difficulty in moving jobs as they moved up the salary scale.

Yours faithfully, G. R. SAVORY (Chairman of Governors, Brixton Church of England Primary School), 36 The Crescent, Brixton, Plymouth, Devon, December 28.

Littered software

From Mr Bob Cooper

Sir, We hear much of the transgressions in town and village of the larger louts. In the countryside, it is the consumer of soft drinks — the cola clot — who is the villain. In parts of the Lake District it is not just difficulties that "stretch in never-ending line" but Coke tins rattling and rusting in the breeze. Could not the manufacturers divert a fraction of their astronomical promotion budgets to persuade their customers to behave in a more socially responsible manner? Yours sincerely, BOB COOPER, Orchard Cottage, Fritzet, Kendal, Cumbria.

Conveyancing services

From the Director-General of the Building Societies Association

Sir, Mr Ewert Evans, Chairman of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers (December 29), suggests that without breaching restrictions on cross-subsidisation, banks, building societies and estate agents could not provide a cheaper conveyancing service without compromising consumer protection. It is surprising how quickly licensed conveyancers have become part of the establishment! It was only a few years ago that the Law Society used precisely the same arguments as to why the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly should not be breached.

Building societies, banks and other institutions have no wish to

UK concessions on Hong Kong

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative)

Sir, Many in Parliament and outside must be wondering why Mr Norman Tebbit challenges the commitment of the Conservative Party, of which he was once chairman, to control immigration — particularly when Mr Hurd as Home Secretary (before becoming Foreign Secretary) and Mr Renshaw as Home Office minister in charge of immigration (before becoming Chief Whip) consistently applied the principle of strict control to very good effect. I am sure that Mr Waddington and his colleagues will continue to do so.

Surely a man of Mr Tebbit's experience and political cannales cannot misunderstand the whole point of the very special plan to offer the reassurance of right of residency in this country to a relatively small number of leading Hong Kong citizens in order to boost their confidence, so that they are more inclined to stay in Hong Kong. If they don't stay, then the likelihood of a vast wave of political refugees arriving here in 1997 and thereafter must be considerably increased.

On the other side of the Hong Kong border Mr Jiang Zemin, the Chinese communist chief, shows equal lack of enlightenment, and exacerbates the problem, by declaring no place in China for people disloyal to Marxist beliefs.

For both politicians, and their supporters, reactionary fervour seems to be the order of the day. What peculiar bedfellows they make; and what a contrast to the thriving new, open-minded embrace of political and economic reality in eastern Europe in recent months. Maybe we have as much to learn from the emerging democracies as we have to teach them, in this new year.

Yours truly, TIM RATHBONE, House of Commons, January 1.

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Sir David Lane (December 29) demonstrates the isolation enjoyed by members of his social milieu from conditions of life affecting most citizens by his claim that this country is successfully coping with the aftermath of the mass colonisation of our cities by the Third World.

All credit to those immigrants who have made a contribution — including hapless Asian victims of African racism, who account for a few per cent. But most English people have suffered grievously from the influx. Neighbourhoods with large numbers of Afro-Caribbeans suffer levels of crime and insecurity previously unknown.

A two-million strong Muslim community is for the most part strongly infected by Khomism, as evinced by scenes of fanaticism

Help for cathedrals

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, Your correspondent (December 30) may well be right that the care of cathedrals should be entrusted to local authorities, but it is a step it would be unwise to take until the Government of these architecturally still well-stocked islands is appointed by a voting system proportionally representative of the wishes of the electorate. The last thing a medieval cathedral wants are political as well as structural ups and downs.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW ANDERSON (Surveyor to the Fabric of St Albans Cathedral), 1 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk, December 30.

Children's needs

From Mrs Sarah Douglas-Pennant

Sir, In the current rush by employers and career-minded women to obtain even more extensive childcare facilities outside the home little thought seems to be given to the real needs of the children.

The focus is all on the right of the mother to get unencumbered to the workplace. Yet does the child not also have the right to be brought up by his own mother, to enjoy the security of family life and the attention of his own parents?

Making sure the children's needs have been identified and attended to must surely be the first consideration in any debate on the role of women with dependent children.

Yours faithfully, SARAH DOUGLAS-PENNANT, Salisbury House, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

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Sir, Mr Ewert Evans, Chairman of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers (December 29), suggests that without breaching restrictions on cross-subsidisation, banks, building societies and estate agents could not provide a cheaper conveyancing service without compromising consumer protection. It is surprising how quickly licensed conveyancers have become part of the establishment! It was only a few years ago that the Law Society used precisely the same arguments as to why the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly should not be breached.

Building societies, banks and other institutions have no wish to

and religious mob violence which earlier generations of Englishmen would have known only from books or films of backward countries.

The way in which this country is being manoeuvred into taking hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong Chinese — the numbers will grow as initial resistance is overcome — thanks to lobbying by a wealthy influential group with City connections and ample funds, symbolises for millions of people what is being done to this country.

By giving expression to popular misgivings, Norman Tebbit may be helping to avert much worse longer-term consequences, even if it is at the cost of inconvenience to his own career, in which he will not be the first. He deserves gratitude.

Yours truly, ALFRED SHERMAN, 10 Gerald Road, SW1, December 29.

From Dr F. David Skidmore

Sir, I have just completed a complex major operation on an elderly English lady. I was assisted in this team effort by four colleagues. My consultant, an aesthetist, originally from India, now has a son reading medicine at Cambridge and a son and daughter at Leeds University studying engineering and computer science.

My registrar from Nigeria has a wife who is a solicitor in London. My senior house officer comes from Delhi, whence he will return as an orthopaedic surgeon in a university department. My house officer was born in Hong Kong, was at school in Britain and then studied medicine at Guy's Hospital.

There appears to be something in the culture of the indigenous British at the present moment which makes them less interested than was once the case in careers in the health service. This situation is made more alarming by the continuing decrease during the 90s in the number of school-leavers, by the greater emphasis on preventative health care and the corresponding need to screen more skilled personnel, and by the fact that there will be more elderly people in their late 70s and 80s requiring nursing and medical care.

I am convinced that the immigration of Hong Kong residents to this country should be welcomed and not feared. I would urge all concerned with the training and staffing of professional organisations to support the Government's declared policy to allow designated families from Hong Kong to be provided with full British passports.

Yours faithfully, F. D. SKIDMORE, 109 Harley Street, W1, December 29.

Ambulance dispute

From Dr T. D. Griffiths

Sir, For how long will Mr Clarke et al keep up the pretence that an adequate emergency ambulance service is being provided in the capital whilst the Government digs in for a prolonged dispute?

I was today asked to assist a neighbour suffering a probable myocardial infarction. The "ambulance" took 30 minutes to arrive, which was a remarkable achievement for the police crew who were off their patch, armed only with a road map. The facilities on board comprised a stretcher, without any restraining straps; no electrocardiogram monitoring equipment, defibrillation equipment, intravenous cannulae, drugs, oxygen or intubation equipment were available.

I travelled in the ambulance to the hospital in case of an arrest, but would have been in no better position to deal with this than a member of the public trained in artificial respiration. Accompanying us was another neighbour, to give the police directions to the nearest hospital.

Lives are being put at risk whilst this Government refuses to settle the dispute by meeting the ambulance leaders. The return of a safe, efficient service should take priority over political posturing.

Yours faithfully, TIM GRIFFITHS (Senior House Officer), Hammersmith Hospital, Duane Road, W12, January 1.

Pregnancy Aids tests

From Mr Peter Bowen-Simpkins

Sir, A report (December 20) that one in two pregnant women were opposed to blood tests for Aids was based on interviews of patients in two ante-natal clinics in London. We have conducted an anonymous survey by means of a self-administered questionnaire in three ante-natal clinics in this health authority area and received 1,001 replies.

In contrast to the results in London we found that 98 per cent of our patients were in favour of testing and as many as 92.3 per cent wished to know the results.

The report that you have highlighted demonstrates the fallibility of single studies and a much larger survey of patients from all over the country must be carried out before meaningful conclusions can be drawn.

Yours faithfully, P. BOWEN-SIMPKINS (Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist), J. THOMAS (Consultant in community medicine), Singleton Hospital, Sketty, Swansea, West Glamorgan.

Lack of posts in foreign tongues

From Dr Peter Gold

Sir, The National Council for Modern Languages has recently undertaken a survey of provision among some 25 universities for so-called "minority interest" languages in this country. We established that in the whole of Britain there are only 9½ established posts in Slavonic languages other than Russian, and that 7½ of these are at one specialist centre of Soviet and East European studies.

Not only is this totally inadequate for our needs in the present European circumstances, but it will make it very difficult for British universities to meet the demand for specialists which industry, Government, the Diplomatic Service and higher education itself are likely to encounter as interest grows in Eastern Europe. It took a recent visit to the Soviet Union by the former Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker, to stimulate a concern about the rundown state of Russian departments in this country.

The problem identified here is but the tip of an iceberg. The NCML survey has confirmed that outside Western Europe the only languages for which provision can be said to be adequate are Arabic (51 established posts), Japanese (40) and Mandarin Chinese (34).

Elsewhere, particularly with regard to African languages, provision is woefully insufficient to meet anything but the minimum requirements, and sometimes not even that. To take just two examples of countries recently in the news, there are no specialists anywhere in British universities in the Omotic languages spoken in Ethiopia, nor is there any specialist in Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines. We have just begun (several decades late) to realise the importance of language competence with regard to Western Europe. It would be timely to take action now in relation to other areas of the world.

Yours sincerely, PETER GOLD (Secretary, National Council for Modern Languages), Department of Business Studies and Languages, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Totley Hall Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Royal Family duties

From Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan

Sir, I have carried out a survey of the engagements by the Royal Family during 1989, as reported in the Court Circular.

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
The Queen	147	73	288	488	18
The Queen Mother	107	114	21	302	75
The Prince of Wales	154	64	111	331	30
The Princess of Wales	181	47	10	238	18
The Duke of York	109	23	8	200	31
The Duchess of York	109	23	8	200	31
The Prince Edward	314	83	5	135	66
The Princess Royal	92	22	7	121	2
The Duke of Gloucester	27	9	11	47	2
The Duchess of Gloucester	20	4	14	176	16
The Duke of Kent	105	42	15	143	29
The Duchess of Kent	109	18	12	139	6
The Princess Alexandra	89	17	10	116	31

A—Official visits, opening ceremonies, etc.
B—Receptions, lunches, dinners, banquets.
C—Other engagements, including investitures, meetings, audiences.
D—Television appearances.
E—Days abroad on official tours.

On official tours abroad the Queen carried out 104 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 267, the Queen Mother 15, the Prince of Wales 140, the Princess of Wales 62, the Duke of York 74, the Duchess of York 127, Prince Edward 27, the Princess Royal 282, Princess Margaret seven and Princess Alexandra 66.

Yours faithfully, T. C. M. O'DONOVAN, Mariners, The Avenue, Datchet, Berkshire, December 29.

Off the rails

From Mr A. L. Melvin

Sir, On the morning of Christmas Day, in a broadcast on Radio 4 from Berlin, an East Berliner explained how easily he had left his home in the East to visit friends in the West. He had taken public transport (the S-Bahn) and had suffered no delay at the Wall.

In London, by contrast, there was no service on the Underground or buses on Christmas Day. Another of the remarkable turn-arounds of 1989 is that it may now be rather easier to cross from East to West Berlin than it is to cross London.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW MELVIN, 269 Walmer Road, W11, December 29.

From Mr S. K. Drake

Sir, I am baffled and bemused by British Rail's decision to run a Saturday train service on a normal working Wednesday (December 27, 1989). Perhaps some senior member at British Rail would care to enlighten disgruntled commuters as to the logic of the decision.

Yours faithfully, S. K. DRAKE, 139 London Road, Copford, Colchester, Essex, December 28.

Safety cheques

From Mr John Knott

Sir, May I offer this tip before you and your readers settle new year bills: go through your cheque books now, completing the date from "19" to "1990". Yours faithfully, JOHN KNOTT, Marlborough House, Lloyds Avenue, EC3, January 2.

هَذَا مِنْ أَلْأَصْلِ 13

[illegible]

DEATHS

ASTELL. - On New Years Day at home Mary Ursula Astell, Suburban near Barbury, Marlston St., Lawrence City, at 2.20 pm. Her flowers will but donations if desired by Mrs. J. S. Lawrence Church, St. Lawrence Humphries, Albert Street, January, Ozon.

BURTON. - On December 31st 1990, Jennifer Clare Burton, aged 38 years, much loved James, mother of Brian and mother of James, died peacefully at her home, cremation at St Faith's Cemetery, Hornham, St. Saturday January 6th at noon. No flowers please but donations if desired by Norwich Norfolk Strengthening Service, c/o G.W. DODD & SONS, Funeral Directors, 261-263, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 2RJ.

JARROW. - On December 29th 1990, at Sutton, Doris Lennox. Deceased loved husband Ronald, most sadly missed by his relatives and friends. Services at St John's Church, Hotham on Saturday next at 11 am.

KELL. - On December 28th, 1990 Ethel Mary peacefully at home in the care of Susan, Jane and John, dear wife of Jimmie, Funeral service at 11.00 am at St Andrew's Church, Wrexham. Followed by cremation at Penybretch, where services may be given for Dr. Arthur's Terminal Care Fund, donations to which will be accepted and the NSPCC All enquiries to Caldecott & Sons Ltd, Tel: 01978 262111.

MCCLELLAN. - On January 1st, 1990, peacefully at Chestnests Nursing Home, 261-263, Norwich, D.B.E., Mrs. S.J.C. Freeman of the Borough of Norwich, aged 92, beloved wife of the late Keith Richard and dearest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Funnell. Funeral Service Thursday 11th January 3.15pm at St Andrew's Church, Pease Ponds, Bournemouth, cremation following. Family reception at 2.30 p.m. at the hall for the Bictorial School. Flowers may be sent to Derrick-School, 261-263, Norwich, Bournemouth.

LINGE. - On January 2nd 1990, at Robinswood, Berks, Gertrude Hepp and son Edward a beloved and dearly loved wife of her husband. Private crematorium. Flowers by donors by request.

LINHAM. - On December 31st 1990, John Manning, late of School Lane, Barton, Lincolnshire, died peacefully after a short illness. Cremated privately by his wife Dorothy Manning. His many friends.

WIFFORD. - On January 1st 1990 at Alexandra Hospital, Eddlethick, Ernest Henry of 10, Munster Road, Worcester, Worcestershire aged 92. Family funeral only.

WILSON. - On December 31st 1990, peacefully at home James Francis Wilson, a private nurse at Putney Crematorium on Wednesday 11th January 1991. No flowers please but donations to King George's Hospital or Red Cross. Obituary notice in the Standard.

WILLIAMS. - On December 24th, 1990, at his home at 10, Victoria Road, Worcester, aged 87 years. Much loved and much missed by his family. Funeral service on Wednesday 10th January 1991 at 1.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to P.O. Box 10, Victoria Road, Worcester on the day.

WMAKE. - On December 31st peacefully in his 91st year William Walter M.A.E. was in Munster Lodge, Worcester, his beloved husband and son. Resting at D.J. Evans & Sons, Funeral Service at Crematorium on Wednesday 10th January at 1.30 pm. Friends and family welcome to bring flowers, donations in lieu of flowers acceptable. The Editor c/o D.J. Evans & Sons, 20 Whitchurch Avenue, Southsea, Gosport, Hampshire.

BURTON. - On January 1st 1990, Charles, husband of Margaret, father of Margaret and Jeffrey, peacefully aged 87 years. Mr. Burton was President of Public School Woodhouse Prefecture Sports Journalist for The Irish Times and Manchester Guardian. He was awarded a JG Kenyon Lush Award for his services to the J.F.U. by 10 am Monday January 8th. A memorial service at St Brigid church, Fleetville, on Tuesday 9th.

CANILL. - On December 31st 1989, aged 75, Margaret Mary Canill, nee the Pinck Nurling Home. Putney. Deceased loved wife of the late Joseph, mother of Joseph and Thomas, James and Christopher. Requiem Mass at St. Truro's Church, 12 West Hill, Wandsworth on January 10th at 10 am, followed by cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium.

CANSALE. - On December 28th, Donald Canisale, peacefully aged 80 years, lived in Frimley Hospital aged 80 years. Donated his organs. A loving father of four sons. We all miss you very much. Funeral service to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on January 11th at 12.30 pm. Flowers and donations to West Hill Hospital. Tel: 02025 711444.

CARTER. - On December 28th, 1990, Joan Elizabeth Nyemphed Court, Wellington. Wife of the late James Carter, General Manager, Nyemphed Court at 12.45 pm on January 8th followed by cremation at Putney Vale. Flowers please but donations in lieu of flowers acceptable.

CLATER. - On December 31st 1989, peacefully at the Feathun Hospital Sherborne, Dorset, General Manager, John, mother of Anne and Noel, mother-in-law of David, brother of Harry and Rory. Cremation followed by service. Service takes place Sunday Thursday January 11th at 11.00 am at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth. Family flowers only please, but donations for The British Red Cross Hospital may be sent to Eaton Funeral Services, Newell, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

CLAYTON. - On December 31st 1990, suddenly at home, Margaret Edith Clayton, nee Daughter of the late John Charles Clayton of Macmillan, Enigma House, 104 Holway Way & Buckley Field, Director of James Street, Macmillan. (02825) 22734.

CRABTREE. - On 1st January 1991, at 90, Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Essex, Ronald Elmer Crabtree (0255) 806771.

CREASY. - On December 28th suddenly at home, Rene Beatrice de Esborn, beloved wife of the late John Creasy and deeply loved mother of Malcolm, a devoted confidante to all the family. Burial at Ransall Park, Leatherslade on January 8th at 3 pm. Flowers by donors to 21 Kingston Rd, Ewell, Surrey.

GULLIN. - On December 28th 1990 suddenly at home, Catherine Gullin, nee Widow of Anthony, loved mother of Judy and the late Ian and grandmother of eight grandchildren. Funeral service on Friday January 10th, 1.15 pm at St. Columba's Church, June, Scotland. Flowers to Donald Macmillan Undertaker, Longbridge, Argyllshire.

DAVIES. - On Saturday December 30th at Amersbury Abbey, Wiltshire, Meredith Davies, nee Jones, widow of the late J. Lifeless Davies and a beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Selio Chapel, Stearn, Dyfed on Saturday January 2nd 1991. No flowers.

DENDER. - On December 28th 1990 Kaitleen Minnie Dender, nee McQuinn, of the Mid Wales Funeral Society, Oswestry, Cheshire, Wales, 80, Northampton Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, aged 90 at 2 pm. No flowers but donations in lieu of flowers to be sent to The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

DONALDSON. - On December 31st 1990, peacefully at home and active autumn, Dorothy Maude Donaldson, widow of the late John Donaldson, beloved mother of Gillian and Humphrey, sister of Nina, Marion and Robert, and great grandmother. Donations in lieu of flowers acceptable. In Memoriam words, Radcliffe Hospital, Reading.

THIS DAY

1893

object of interest, yet to me it was most so when the Belgians entered it. I was present and saw them enter into possession. The ground and the ramparts were ploughed up; broken shells, cannon-balls, and wrecks of houses lay about as they are now, being levellied by fire. Yet the provisions were still there, and I went down to Chef's apartment, had received but one shell. There several hundred barrels of provisions, bread in abundance, and the pumps in the casemates were untouched. The chapel is a striking ruin; nothing there is whole: one remarkable object was the broken headless statue of Dom Fermeau de Solis, erected over his grave in Spanish times. The inscription yet remains in that language.

The apartment in which General Chassé lately lived was at one end of a casemate fronting the south, and not exposed much to the fire of the French. It is situate at the end of the provision-store, and near a pump, considerably lower than the other parts of the citadel. It is in the direction of the bastion Duque, and near the Scheldt. There was nothing of value remaining, yet some persons in their eagerness, sought even a slight memorial of the spot in which the old General heard so many thousand shells bursting around him.

... After an interval of an hour, the few trunks of General Chassé and of his staff were brought out, and placed in three carriages: then came the old General himself, with his officers. The French Guards stationed where the coaches were waiting near the gate instantly presented arms.

Another party drove away about 100 spectators. The carriages passed on through the village of St Laurent. In the first, an old-fashioned postchaise, sat General Chassé and Colonel de Boer; it passed close to where I stood.

I saw the old General, calm and serene, his age, his intrepidity, and his fidelity created for him respect in my eyes. I forgot for a moment the intolerance of his master, and al-

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SAIN DESIGNS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at The Queens Hotel, 100 Strand, London, East Sussex, on the 10th day of January 1990 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 98 of the Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 20 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 2EF, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 10th day of December 1989
By Order of the Board
Patrick Foley Director

IN THE MATTER OF STEEL TUBE SERVICES LIMITED
Trading as S.T.S. CARBS
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that if Stephen Daniel Swaidan, of 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 2EF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company and the members and creditors on 22nd December 1989.

Dated this 22nd day of December 1989
Stephen Daniel Swaidan FCA Liquidator

Leonard Curtis & Co., 20 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 2EF, Chartered Accountants
PO Box 663
30 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 2EF

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
N.C. 596 Of 1989
IN THE MATTER OF CONCRETECAST LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 141 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at Shetler House, 33, Bedford Square, London EC2Y 7DQ on 15 January 1990 at 10.30 a.m. for the purpose of determining whether a Liquidation Committee should be established and, if so, electing its members.

A creditor is entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting may appoint a proxy to attend in his stead instead of him or her. Proxies for use at the meeting should be lodged at the address shown no later than 12.00 noon on 12 January 1990, together with a proof of the creditor's claim, and any proxy lodged on the day must be lodged at the address mentioned, photocopies are not acceptable.

Dated the 22nd day of December 1989
R.M. Adair Liquidator

KEN READ & SON (WHOLESALE) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 12nd Floor, London W2 2EF, on Monday the 15th of January 1990 at 12.00 p.m. for the purposes provided for in Section 98 of the Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 2EF, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 22nd day of December 1989
A.P. Baker Company Secretary

L. B. T. WOOD PRODUCTS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 101, Coleman on 8 January 1990 at 10.30 a.m. in London, E.C.2Y 7DQ, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 79 Hinton Garden, London EC2N 1JL, on the two business days falling next before the date of the meeting.

Dated this 21st day of December 1989
N. Bollen Director

DAKWOOD COMMERCIAL ESTATES LIMITED FORMERLY PAUL RICHMOND LIMITED
Reg No. 1197340
Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and Rule 5.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, take notice that we Ian Douglas Barker Bond and Stephen Jonathan Taylor, both of Messrs Dehette Haskins & Setts, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3JX were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers, of the above named company on 25 December 1989 by a Debenture dated 27 January 1978.

I.D.B. Bond
T.R. Harts
Joint Administrative Receivers
29 December 1989

DAKWOOD GROUP PLC
Reg No. 80814
DAKWOOD COMMERCIAL ESTATES LIMITED FORMERLY PAUL RICHMOND LIMITED
Reg No. 1197340
FRANK LOVE LIMITED
Reg No. 363916
Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and Rule 5.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, take notice that we Ian Douglas Barker Bond and Stephen Jonathan Taylor, both of Messrs Dehette Haskins & Setts, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3JX were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers, of the above named company on 21 December 1989 by a Debenture dated 27 January 1978.

I.D.B. Bond
T.R. Harts
Joint Administrative Receivers
29 December 1989

CONMOORE PLC
Reg No. 580898
CONMOORE HOLDINGS LIMITED
Reg No. 2072641
READSON GROUP LIMITED
Reg No. 1961620
Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and Rule 5.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, take notice that we Ian Douglas Barker Bond and Stephen Jonathan Taylor, both of Messrs Dehette Haskins & Setts, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3JX were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers, of the above named company on 21 December 1989 by a Debenture dated 27 January 1978.

I.D.B. Bond
T.R. Harts
Joint Administrative Receivers
29 December 1989

CONMOORE & CO
Reg No. 210072
CONMOORE & CO LIMITED
Reg No. 362960
C. VICTOR LIMITED
Reg No. 292657
BIRTH & WILSON
Reg No. 195722
MCDONOUGH & CO
Reg No. 81458
GILLBRAND LIMITED
Reg No. 81458
JUNTEX GARMENTS (OMAD) LIMITED
Reg No. 103063
JUNTEX GARMENTS LIMITED
Reg No. 273456
RICHARD STUMP
Reg No. 276684
RICHARD STUMP LIMITED
Reg No. 276684
RICHARD STUMP LIMITED
Reg No. 467410
TRENDYWEAR FRANCHISES
Reg No. 1264826
WILLIAM STANFORD & COMPANY LIMITED
Reg No. 146463
WOOD BROTHERS (GLOSSOP) HOLDINGS LIMITED
Reg No. 200370
WOOD BROTHERS (GLOSSOP) LIMITED
Reg No. 618230
Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and Rule 5.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, take notice that we Ian Douglas Barker Bond and Stephen Jonathan Taylor, both of Messrs Dehette Haskins & Setts, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3JX were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers, of the above named company on 21 December 1989 by a Debenture dated 27 January 1978.

I.D.B. Bond
T.R. Harts
Joint Administrative Receivers
29 December 1989

ROBERT MAYNARD LIMITED
Reg No. 01129073
Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and Rule 5.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, take notice that we Ian Douglas Barker Bond and Stephen Jonathan Taylor, both of Messrs Dehette Haskins & Setts, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3JX were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers, of the above named company on 21 December 1989 by a Debenture dated 27 January 1978.

I.D.B. Bond
T.R. Harts
Joint Administrative Receivers
29 December 1989

MEMORIAL SERVICES

thousands disabled both during the operations. Last year over 28.5 million tonnes of coal were produced in the country.

...of the garrison's departure. To
it was during last week an

THE ARTS

A pushy woman at work

TELEVISION
Jasper Rees

This might appear to be an extravagant claim, but you could argue that, from David Niven to Ruby Wax is but a step.

The step in question is the Atlantic Ocean, which Niven used to make a career of the English ambassador to Hollywood. More recently, Wax took the same step in the other direction, making a career as a US ambassador to British television.

Having persuaded her to defect again, from Channel 4, the BBC have allowed Wax to build her own vehicle, which is roomy enough for her to be herself: glib, brash and fearlessly enabbling, in short, American. The format of *Hit and Run* (BBC 1) could not be simpler. The camera crew shows up at Wax's place first thing she wakes up in a jock-a-suit, says her goodbyes to husband, baby and nanny, and careers out into the street, where she immediately begins the hunt for human-interest stories.

Accosting passing strangers, knocking on doors to solicit interviews, she intrudes and enquires indiscriminately. In other words, the 15 seconds of fame Wax has to offer is the sort the man and woman in the street ought to be very wary of accepting, as it involves divulging intimate sexual secrets, and "trash like that". "Just give me something," she pleaded with one forthcoming passer-by. "I am trying to make a documentary."

But the Wax way still gets results. In the first of the series, she traded insults with a surly taxi driver, barged into the drawing room of a gloriously well-preserved but reclusive society lady, nosed around a suburban modist colony, and fetched up at a Cypriot wedding party.

Only Wax can do this, because she plumbs the depths other presenters cannot reach. The premier now is meant to be reminded of Anneka Rice, whose squeaky-clean miracle-working show *Hit and Run* consciously spoofs.

To the cameramen who huddled along in her wake, Wax barked, "Don't look at my behind; Anneka's behind is perfect." The behinds do not differ only in size: energetic Anneka's, luridly track-suited, is packed with niceness, warmth and fun; rude Ruby's, power-dressed in a career-girl short skirt, radiates uncompromising bitchiness.

Some of the here behinds at the modist colony, of course, said all sorts of other things, and an index of Wax's skill is that she knows when to let those things speak for themselves. "I like to think I can play the field," said the especially round man who escorted her to the colony. Nothing needed to be said, and nothing was.

As for *Hit and Run*'s spontaneity, you can only take Wax at her word when she says it is authentic. It's just that, even when people think they are telling the truth, they may well not be. One woman who opened her front door to Wax recognized her at once: "I know you," she said politely. "My friend's got all your records."

Toschi

With two plays about to open in London, Howard Barker remains, as Jim Hiley discovers, an outsider among British playwrights

Theatre's one-man awkward squad

One of the British theatre's greatest assets is the output of a radical group of dramatists, now slipping into middle age with their radicalism exuberantly intact. Few younger playwrights look like emulating the early precociousness and continuing fecundity of Caryl Churchill, Howard Brenton, David Hare and their generation.

Among this redoubtable band, Howard Barker is a conspicuous oddball. Over 20 years, he has seen 40 plays produced, carving a niche for himself without ever enjoying the big box-office success that periodically befalls his comrades. In an era of populism and instant communication, he stands for ruminative abstraction. Against the tide of television-influenced miniaturism, Barker insists on propounding epic theses.

Managements treat Barker with caution, but directors and actors cherish his scorching poetics and haunting imagery. Few playwrights are better regarded within the profession. There are signs, too, of a kindling public warmth for theatre's one-man awkward squad.

Others might have abandoned a career which pays him less than the average industrial wage. But Barker maintains a prolific supply of new texts. He also finds time to articulate his vision of a drama which "honours" its audience with dense and disturbing fare. Last year he published a bracing manifesto, *Arguments for a Theatre* (John Calder).

Now Barker finds himself in the unlikely position of having two plays unveiled in London within days. After attracting capacity houses and enthusiastic reviews in Sheffield and Leicester, the Wrething School — a company formed by actors expressly for the promotion of Barker's work — has brought his *Seven Leaps* to the Royal Court. And Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent inaugurate

their new regime at the Almeida with *Scenes From An Execution*, in which Glenda Jackson makes a rare appearance on the "fringe".

Seven Leaps speculates on the tragic hero's early life, sketching a biography of his wife, whom Shakespeare mentions only fleetingly. Lear marries Clarissa after an affair with her mother. Then, in a series of disastrous battles, his wife proves a rather more effective general than he. Among other inventions, the Fool begins life as a well-placed courtier, and Gloucester is a beggar ennobled by Lear on a whim. The play also charts the king's descent from an early preoccupation with goodness to what Barker calls the "boorishness" of Shakespeare's opening scenes.

"I am writing about the conflict between conscience and individual freedom," 43-year-old Barker says. His pronouncements are crisp to the point of pugnacity, but his manner is shy. "My Lear believes himself born wise, but he attempts to achieve madness. His quest takes no account of the public, which is suicidal for a king."

Some performances of *Seven Leaps* will be preceded by a shorter piece, *Go!go!* (reviewed in these pages last month), in which a group of aristocrats "prepare for their fate" in the French revolution by enacting their own travesty of the Crucifixion. Both plays feature a chorus. By this device, Barker says he is seeking to "dump the naturalistic baggage" of modern drama. At the same time, he hopes to "subvert the chorus as a repository of truth."

"My characters often advance both an idea and its opposite. They seduce each other by their artfulness. There isn't much subtlety in my work." In this, Barker discards a tradition which even "left-wing" dramatists tend to embrace. Much British acting and directing hinges on allusion



Barker: "Our world is highly contradictory, so art should reflect that"

and thoughts unspoken. By contrast, Barker is intent on lugging on to the stage the demons that other writers and directors confine to the wings.

In *Scenes From An Execution*, Glenda Jackson appears as Galactia, a fictional Venetian painter of the 16th century, commissioned by the authorities to commemorate their victory at the Battle of Lepanto. Far from

extolling military might, Galactia's mural is gory and shocking. Her dissidence lands her in jail, though by the end she has gained acceptance of a kind. Barker might be expected to lionize an artist at odds with her society, but his play is altogether more ambiguous. As he points out, "Galactia is relentlessly egotistic and flawed."

He has no qualms about the

mounting of *Scenes From An Execution* as a star vehicle. "I believe in big parts, especially for women. We have so many wonderful actresses who aren't being given contemporary roles. Glenda has a tremendous power of invention and linguistic manipulation. You can't do my work without that sort of energy."

Jackson played Galactia five years ago in the original radio version of the play, which won both the Sony Award and the Prix Italia — the only drama prize Barker values. At the time of the broadcast, Jackson testified approvingly: "Howard writes language you can actually taste."

A recent attempt to bring the play into the West End came to nothing, but Barker refuses to be fazed by his lack of commercial appeal. He claims that he was heartened by the response to *Seven Leaps* on tour. He sensed a readiness among audiences to enjoy the sensuality of his language, without hunting for packages of meaning.

Here again, Barker confounds the image of the radical playwright. "Message" drama is one of his greatest bugbears: "My function is not to enlighten people, but to make them participate in an imaginative journey."

Even so, it has been suggested that both *Seven Leaps* and *Scenes From An Execution* betray a new accessibility in Barker's writing. He denies this strenuously — "the artist who makes himself accessible is self-destructive" — and he goes so far as to call himself an elitist. "But the elite I'm interested in hunger for the imaginative life. It's nothing to do with class or education."

In the regions, he says, some people saw *Seven Leaps* three

times. "They would not have returned if the play had not been complex. Audiences should feel encouraged to come in and wade about in complexity. Our world is highly contradictory, so art should

reflect that. The artist's duty is to think hard, not shallowly." In his latest work, Barker grapples with the perennial conflict between "the desire to submit and the desire to resist", which he believes has been reactivated by Mrs Thatcher and her global soulmates. "A characteristic of Thatcherism is a reversion to the idea of nature, irreparable in its forces. Poverty and sickness are seen as part of an order. Those who oppose the concept try to do so by discipline, control and uniformity, as for example in the European regimes which are now crumbling."

Like several of his contemporaries, Barker once specialized in "state of England" plays, but overt politics no longer inspire him creatively. "I begin with a crisis rather than an intention. You have to be irresponsible, assailing everything you cherish, when you start writing."

Despite this laudable commitment to the reinvention of his own talent, it is a surprise to hear Barker hymning theatrical classicism. "I respect traditional values, especially in terms of language. The complexities of poetry are destroyed by the media. In the theatre, spoken language can be defended and expanded."

He dismisses the idea that 1990 might be his breakthrough year. The same was said, he points out, of 1985, when three of his plays were presented to sell-out houses by the Royal Shakespeare Company. "I don't require a mass following. I want to address the intelligentsia. They're a very important class — just look at their role in Eastern Europe. When people talk about a breakthrough, I wonder — break through to what?"

Seven Leaps previews in the Royal Court (01-730 1745) on Thursday, opens on Friday. *Scenes From An Execution* previews at the Almeida (01-359 4404) from Thursday and opens on Tuesday, January 9.



Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme: Jérôme Savary (left), André Burton

Panto à la mode, or Molière at the circus

Jérôme Savary's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* is the best of British panto at its most farcically French. Although he is now artistic director of the Chailotte — France's most respected national theatre after the Comédie Française — Savary's origins as founder of the avant-garde Grand Magic Circus theatre company make themselves felt when the occasion arises. (London theatre-goers had a chance to sample a much-diluted dose of the Savary style, when he directed the ill-fated *Metropolis*.)

As both director of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and its star (he plays the would-be gentilhomme, Monsieur Jourdain), Savary takes Molière's classic comic tale and outrageously tailors it to fit his own theatrical excesses. Molière's scenario and dialogue are intact, but the rest is pure Magic Circus. Savary's Jourdain sports a floor-length red wig and more frills and furbelows than Dame Edna Everage. The extrovert Savary is no actor, but a showman without parallel, down to the tip of Jourdain's fat cigar. François

THEATRE
Diane Hill
Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
Chailotte, Paris

Borysse's mincing Dance Master (fetching in sugar-pink satin) and André Burton's mealy-mouthed Music Master squabble like a couple of Ugly Sisters.

The panto metaphor continues with Valérie Mairesse's portrayal of Lucile as a wayward Cinderella contriving to have a ball with Cleante (Stephane Dumas), no Prince Charming, but a lanky commoner who thus gets the thumbs-down from Lucile's social-climbing papa, Jourdain. It becomes a mixed metaphor with the arrival of Captain Hook in a high-speed wheelchair, masquerading as Molière's satirical Fencing Master.

When Jourdain goes Turk, the show's high-kicking chorus line

goes topless. The musical interludes by Lully, Molière's favourite musical collaborator, are supplemented by some swinging sounds from Christian Hillion, who also plays a mean saxophone in the baroque jazz band that occupies a corner of Michel Lelouis' costumed country mansion design. This latter survives being blasted by a burst of convincingly wet weather, being split up the middle by a volcanic Dante's inferno and finally being bombarded by party-poppers.

No-one actually says the French equivalent of "Oh no, there isn't" nor encourages cries of "He's behind you" from the audience, but such phrases hang in the air. Bruno Raffaelli is such a deliciously despicable, scrounging aristocratic Durand, he does indeed evoke him.

Standing out in the 40-strong cast — whose quick-changes provide the illusion of being a cast of hundreds — is Maxime Lombard as the Philosophy Master. He accompanies Molière's mastery oral send-up of the vowel sounds

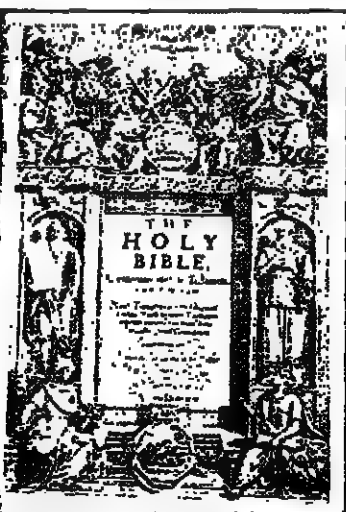
with a visual explanatory St Vitus dance that, in panto parlance, brings the house down.

Amidst this savoury Savary mix of Max-Wall-meets-the-Marx-Brothers, it is left to Nadine Alari as Madame Jourdain to carry the torch for Molière's underlying social message. While all about are losing everything except their sense of humour, Madame Jourdain keeps an impressive cool, trying with homespun good sense to prevent her husband from being relieved of his dignity and respect along with his wallet. Folly wins out as Jourdain verbally makes his wife bite the dust of humiliation.

It is at this point that Molière fights back to the surface. Savary's Jourdain, for all his *bon-bonnie*, is suddenly revealed to be a failed anti-hero, savoring the pleasure of those in the audience who have reached the age of reason. There is the realization that a street of curstard pie obliterates too many of the play's ever-pertinent, clever, class-conscious contours.

Any book can be a best-seller, as long as it is a Good Book

Forget the modern British novelists and television tie-ins: the Bible is the biggest-selling book every year, as Joseph Connolly relates



Faces of a favourite: title page (above left) of a first edition of the Authorized Version, 1611; some of the more than one million copies of the New Testament of the New English Bible, which was published in 1961



the faithful communication of the Bible's message.

The Prince of Wales may be displeased to learn that sales of the modern texts hugely outstrip those of the more traditional versions. Whether people love the new texts remains debatable, but that they are more accessible (or, as it has been suggested, less off-putting) appears evident. That they sell in huge quantities is indisputable.

"When Hodder brought out that paperback New International Version some months ago — the one with a Manhattan, Tom Wolfe-style cover — we sold 200 in a few weeks. And the leather-bound deluxe editions go well: 50 a week at Christmas."

All this is nothing, however, compared to the sales annually achieved by Britain's greatest source, the Bible Society. As they explain: "Contrary to most parts of the world, we in English-speaking countries have a wealth of Bibles. The most modern are the result of the establishment of translation from ancient texts as a sophisticated and precise process, recent significant archaeological discoveries, and a commitment to

two Bibles are sold in Britain than of all other versions put together, and sales are now rising each year: in Britain the GNB sold 374,000 copies in 1986, 380,000 in 1987, and 410,000 in 1988. During 1988, the NIV sold 275,000 (including export sales).

These figures are staggering even when one considers that they do not reflect sales of a single standard product. For while most other books are available only in hardback or paperback (dictionaries, again, being the exception), The Good News Bible comes in no fewer than 60 formats, ranging from £3 soft-cover editions on up via servicable hardbacks and a bewildering array of "presentation" editions (some frankly horrible) to superb Persian leather "pew and pulpit" Bibles at £145. Along the way are all manner of compact editions, part works, illustrated and large print versions, as well as the mandatory morocco bindings, with optional padding and zips. Every one of these finds a ready

sale — as do the further 60 formats of the NIV.

Certainly Bibles tend to bring out the best and the worst in book designers, as is clearly demonstrated by the Bible Society's range, in which superb and suitably sedate bindings jostle with the impossibly kitsch. After a time, it is difficult to differentiate one edition from another, for all are referred to by acronyms, and woe betide anyone who confuses his VUL with his BISH, let alone his NEB with his NIV.

In addition to the bestselling GNB and NIV, the Society also offers the New King James (revised authorized), the New American, the New American Standard, the Revised Standard, the Authorized Version (King James), the Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem, the Living Bible, the New Welsh, the Amplified Bible, the Moffat, the William Barclay and the J.B. Phillips, in addition to dozens of Bible studies, concordances and evangelical works.

The society alone sells from 10,000 to 60,000 of each of these titles each year (with, surprisingly, The New Welsh Bible outselling the rest), but many, many more are sold through bookshops. Also still available and still popular is the New English Bible (OUP/CUP), although last September the presses of Oxford and Cambridge collaborated in publishing the Revised English Bible, which is the result of 15 years' scholarship and liaison with all of Britain's Christian churches as well as with the Bible Society.

"When the New English Bible was published in 1970," says OUP's Nigel Lynn, "it sold out on day one. It still sells 30-40,000 copies a year." One third of a million copies of the Revised English were printed this year (100,000 for the UK), and three months on, a 50,000 UK reprint has just been delivered. "The market is really huge," says Lynn. And so it was inevitable, I suppose, that we should sooner or later be offered "the world's first hand-held electronic Bible". The sales literature for this King James version (available from Franklin Computer) goes on at length about it being "hand-held", as if all of Britain's Christian churches as well as with the Bible Society.

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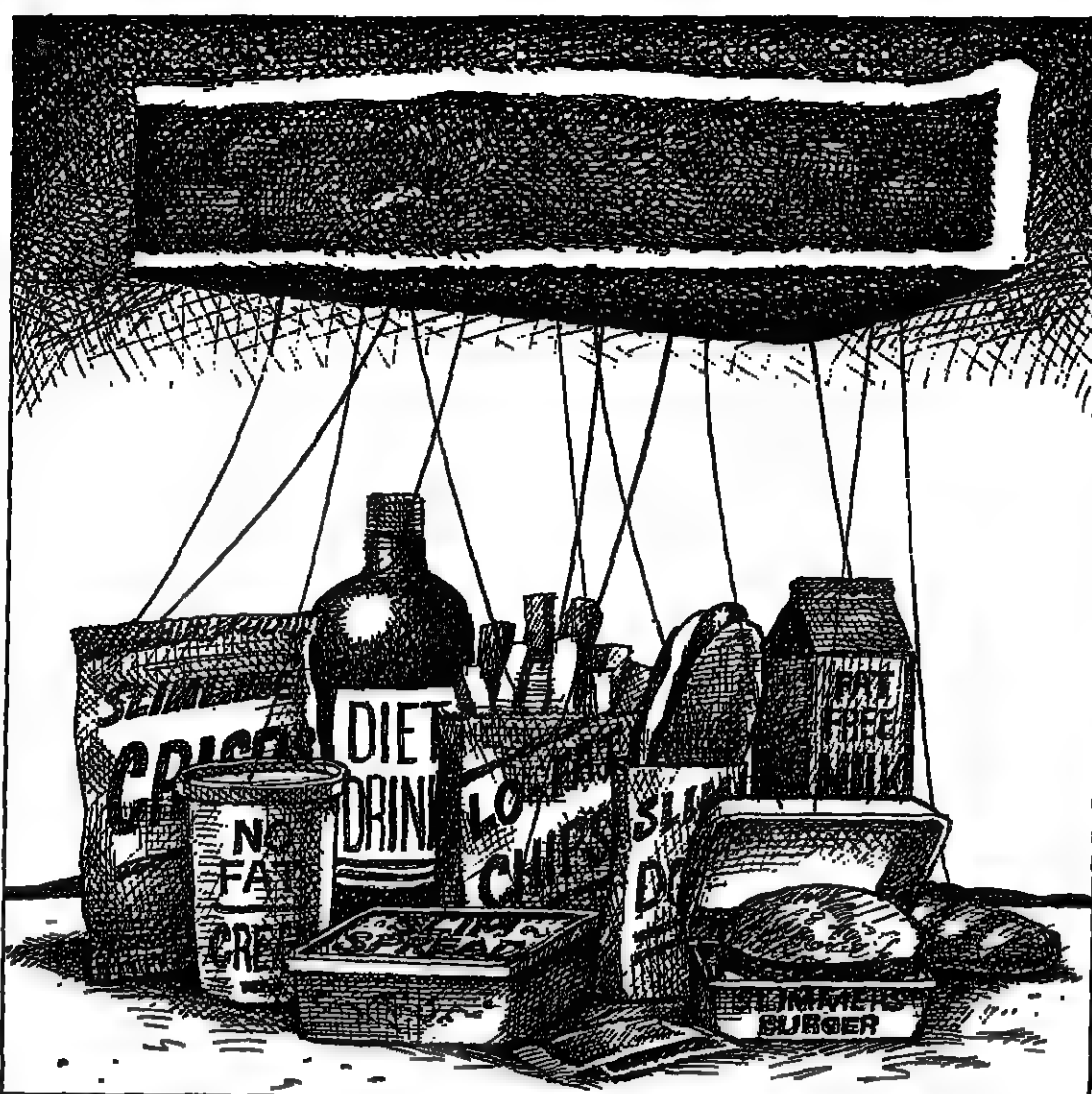
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A fat-free future — fat chance?

Scientists have developed "fat-free" fats that promise to put dietary danger areas back on the menu: does this mean a slim outlook for the Nineties? Alexandra King reports



undesirable residues, but they carry the fat-soluble vitamins. The effect of eliminating fats completely from the diet would have to be watched very closely.

Georgala agrees: "Some slimmers are desperate people who will exceed recommendations, which is something the safety assessors have to take into account."

In the United States, more serious worries about the safety of Olestra have surfaced. Dr Michael Jacobson, of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, says: "We have asked the FDA not to approve Olestra because its effects have not yet been adequately studied. Usually, food additives are studied in rats and mice, and Olestra was studied only in rats until recently, when a study in

'Some slimmers are desperate people who will exceed recommendations'

mice was started which will take several years to complete.

"The rat studies have indicated some potential problems such as changes in the liver — and even without a possibility of these changes causing cancer we are concerned about something that causes changes in the liver. Pituitary tumours have also been found. No one knows why, because it is not supposed to be absorbed, but lack of absorption does not always mean safety."

Since fats are solvents which carry toxins through the body (one of the reasons a fatty diet might be implicated in some types of cancer) as well as vitamins, they may still act as transporters even if they are not being absorbed, Jacobson speculates.

A spokesman for Procter & Gamble in Britain says that "my company is aware of these problems and has addressed them", and that "the product has been very extensively tested".

Most potential fat substitutes have come from obesity-obsessed America. Exceptions include the starch polydextrins from the British Natural Starch Company, an offshoot of Unilever, and a potato starch compound from Holland called Piselli SA2.

Olestra is unique in that it is the only one which is not metabolized, says Dr Simon Holmes, director of the Leatherhead Food Research Association, which has produced an extensive study of the literature on fat substitutes (£80 to non-members, £60 to members).

The report divides them into three categories: "The main substitutes", which include Olestra, Simplesse, and the early starch polydextrins, which have been used in low-fat spreads and slimmers' ice-creams in Britain and America; "Newer candidates", still largely on the drawing-board, such as Nutrifat and Olestrin, both from the newly-formed Reck company in America, and a blend of carbohydrates and proteins; and "Other proposed fat substitutes", which include the waxy joboba oil used in hair and skin preparations, and an intriguing-sounding product called N-Flate which, according to Holmes, is composed of starchy mixtures.

When, in the 1970s, Americans were told that saccharin might cause cancer, angry dieters protested against the FDA's ban, demanding the right to make their own choice.

There is no doubt that people are dying to get their mouths around fatless fatty treats, whatever the consequences. "I think it will take at least three or four years for Olestra to get through — if it does," Jacobson says. "But other companies have other chemicals already under test. Sooner or later a successful fat substitute will be approved."

Even sooner might seem too late for some. But if it's any crumb of consolation, the 1990s have been predicted to become a decade of comfort cooking, "couch potatoes" and more comfortably upholstered figures.

Every dieter dreams of being able to gorge on chocolate, crisps, biscuits, cakes and chips without the evidence accumulating on the hips or in the arteries. The development of a successful low calorie, low cholesterol, fat substitute has long been the dream of the food industry.

Sugar substitutes, hailed as the slimming breakthrough in the 1960s, proved a problem, with cancer scares (subsequently disproved) and, in some cases, disproved over both saccharin and cyclamates. Artificial sweeteners also turned out to be a red herring for those fishing for a substantial weight loss. Because of its highly concentrated caloric value, the fat in biscuits, cakes, chocolate, and so on is more likely to make the sweet-toothed more plump than the sugar they consume.

It is now widely acknowledged that fat is the major dietary culprit implicated in both overweight and heart disease. Low fat diets are recommended not only for patients with weight, heart and gallbladder problems but to counteract cancer, diabetes and a host of other ailments. Reports by both the National Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education (NACNE) and the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food (COMA) recommended a substantial cut on the fat consumed in the average British diet.

But cutting back on fats is not so easy. "Fat," says Professor Douglas Georgala, director of food research for the Agriculture and Food Research Council, "has a lubricating effect in the mouth which makes eating foods which contain it a particularly attractive sensory experience. People become addicted to fats, and the way they make things, such as chocolate, melt in the mouth. Fat also carries flavour. Its appeal should not be underestimated."

So the announcement last month that a protein-based, low-calorie fat substitute would be available to the food industry this year, and could appear in British supermarkets in a dessert, salad dressing or dip before the end of 1990, seemed to herald a new age of hope for despairing dieters.

Simplesse, from the American Monsanto Corporation, parent company of Nutra-Sweet, is a dairy-based fat substitute containing egg white, condensed skimmed milk, water, sugar, pectin, lecithin and citric acid. It cannot be heated, but can be substituted for some or all of the fat in mayonnaise-type dressings, ice-creams, dips, "buttercream", style cake icings and other savoury or sweet spreads and desserts.

"Whereas the normal Thousand Island dressing might have 70 calories a spoonful," says Penny Wright, of Daniel Edelman, the public relations company handling Simplesse in Britain, "one made with Simplesse would have only 25 calories. And it tastes delicious. It has the 'mouth feel' of fat."

But Simplesse itself will not go on to the supermarket shelves, she says. It will be available only as an ingredient to the food industry to be used in products, which will be clearly labelled.

Its major rival on the horizon is Procter & Gamble's Olestra, a non-digestible sucrose polyester, a blend of vegetable oil and sucrose chemically bonded, which can also be used for frying, baking, in soups, gravies, chocolate and most other forbidden fatty treats. Not only does it provide no calories itself, since it is not metabolized and passes through the system like the faeces of slimmers' fantasies, it is also claimed by its makers "to reduce the absorption of dietary cholesterol", which is said to dissolve in the Olestra and be carried out of the body.

But Olestra, which seems like the answer to a fatty's prayer since it has more potential applications, is being held back from the market by the American Food and Drug Administration and Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods until it has been more completely investigated.

A MAFF spokesperson says: "Simplesse is classed as a food because it is made of common food proteins, modified in a purely physical way, and it must merely comply with Food Act regulations. Olestra, however, is a new chemical compound and is classed as a food additive which

needs additional approval from the Food Advisory Committee, which is looking at it now."

Professor Paul Turner, a toxicologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, is, like Georgala, on the Food Advisory Committee, which has Olestra's fate in the balance. He is also chairman of

the MAFF's toxicity committee. Encouragingly, he envisages "no serious safety problem" in fat substitutes such as Olestra or Simplesse, but wonders about their long-term nutritional consequences if relied upon to excess.

"You must remember what happened with micro-proteins [meat substitutes, such as Quorn, added to bulk-out products], which were originally intended to be used only as supplementary sources of protein. Now they have become the whole content of certain pies," he says.

"And not only are fat solvents which can be a vehicle for

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Can women win the boardroom battle?

Fewer men will occupy executive positions by the decade's end, forecasts suggest. But male bosses seem slow to get the message

Between now and 1995, 55 per cent of new professional and management jobs and 62 per cent of others will go to women, the Henley Centre of Forecasting predicts. Given this and the oft-mentioned "demographic trough" — the coming shortage of school-leavers — you might expect companies to consider women, and their interests, a good investment. Not so — some companies still need convincing.

It is difficult beyond belief to get commercial sponsorship money for women's organizations in housing, health, childcare and equal opportunities. Sport, the arts, housing and the environment are higher on sponsors' lists.

"Companies are male-dominated at the top and 'male issues' dominated," says Michael Norton, director of the Directory of Social Change. "The biggest single recipients of sponsorship are horse-

riding and motor-racing." John Robbins, Trust House Forte's public relations chief, who estimates that two-thirds of THF's employees are female, confirms this. "We sponsor sport, mainly golf and horse-racing events. We do not sponsor any women's functions or organizations."

But Norton, believes this is about to change. "Originally, sponsors wanted 'image' and useful PR. They then discovered sponsorship was good for business entertainment. In the Nineties, companies will want to build loyalty, not just with consumers but with their employees."

Companies have been slow to realize the potential in sponsoring women's organizations. In 1989, Childcare Vouchers sponsored the Working Mothers' Association, and British Telecom allocated £30,000 sponsorship over three years for the 300 Group, which campaigns to get more women into



Denton: how to market to women

workers, most of them women. We wanted an organization that represented their interests."

Eleanor Macdonald, founder of Women in Management, was one of the pioneers of commercial sponsorship for women. WIM's first sponsor was her former employer, Unilever. Nine years ago, she persuaded eight other companies to sponsor WIM for between £500 and £1,000 a year each. "The organization has to be credible and the sponsor has to have confidence in the person making the request," she says.

Vicky Wisher, personnel policy adviser at BP, which sponsors

'We encourage our staff — men and women — to take part in public life'

WIM, explains: "We see WIM as a useful resource. It helped us to set up Women in BP. We also sponsor Women into Science and Engineering. It all contributes to our equal opportunities programme."

But even WIM receives only about £15,000 a year from 17 corporate sponsors.

"What sponsors are looking for is credibility with women," says Jean Denton, a consultant for Marketing to Women and a former marketing director for Austin Rover. "If you are marketing to women, you can't just suddenly say: 'We care'. Companies have to show they are interested in women as people not just cheque-signers."

Denton cites the example of Lombard. "Lombard markets to women through offering finance for buying cars. For nine years, Lombard has sponsored the venue for the annual fundraiser for the group, Women on the Move Against Cancer. When National Provincial building society wanted to market its financial advice guide to women, it sponsored fringe meetings at the party conferences for the 300 Group and the Conservative Women's Group. The publicity was good."

Sponsorship for one-off events can be easier to attract than sponsorship for running costs. But again, it comes down to the right personal contacts in big corporations.

"Harnessing the Female Resource", a successful conference organized by WIM and the Girls' Schools Association last July, signalled the start of the growing influence of the demographic shift. Eleanor Macdonald raised £42,500 from 18 corporate sponsors, including BP, Hanson, ICI, Littlewoods and Sainsbury.

Martin Taylor, director of the Hanson Group, says the group is besieged with requests. "We're approached by 60 or 70 organizations a week. Our charitable giving and sponsorship combined is about £1 million a year. We divide commercial sponsorship from charitable giving."

Displaying a lack of communication between women's organizations and big business, Taylor adds: "We are unlikely to consider women's organizations because we mainly consider applications only when they come under the categories of health or education."

In Britain, lack of personal access to the right people in big business is one of the reasons for ignorance about women's groups.

Denton says: "The UK market has not yet recognized the power of women's influence. But the agenda for the Nineties much closer than it has ever been to a woman's agenda: concern, environment, different management styles are all areas in which women work well."

Jane Grant, director of the National Association of Women's Organizations, representing 114 women's organizations in Britain, counsels women's groups to spell out to sponsors what the organization has on offer in return for cash, such as space in their magazine and access to their members through mail lists.

So what do women's groups do with the cash when they get it? Andrea Whalley, chair of the all-party 300 Group's national executive, says: "If we are to be really effective and pay our headquarters staff sufficient wages, and do the organization's work, we need sponsorship from companies and trusts in money and kind of about £200,000 a year. And yes, we have a lot to offer in return."

Lesley Abdela

© The author is founder of the 300 Group.
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Join the club

The "men only" club should be an outnumbered anachronism by the end of the century, says the Business Women's Travel Club, which claims that women executives are particularly in need of the sort of safe, secure rooms that private clubs can offer. The BWTC (which, despite the title, is open to men as well as women) has been collecting horror stories on golf clubs which do not allow women to walk on uncarpeted areas and the working men's club that allows a man and his dog to go in for a drink on a Sunday lunch time, but not his wife. In the latest issue of its newsletter, however, it lists some clubs in London and around the world which are particularly sympathetic to women.

For membership details and other information about the BWTC contact Trisha Cochrane, BWTC, 10 Stratton Ground, London SW1P 2HP (01-222 4539).

Your destiny

Health and beauty writer Leslie Kenton has joined with a fellow American, Julia Hastings, to run Workshops with a Difference, designed to "empower individuals to discover their own personal destiny, so that they can play an active role in the renewal and healing of the planet". All this and vegetarian meals, too, for £75 (payable in advance). The workshops promise "two days for change" and "three steps to freedom", and in addition, Kenton and Hastings, a psychotherapist specializing in "stress relief and motivation", offer shorter, £15 workshops on such topics as "how to travel in the fast lane without leaving your partner behind". If you haven't turned off by now the workshops will take place on January 19 and 20 and 26 and 27 at the Quaker Meeting House, 52 St Martins Lane, London WC2M 4EA. Workshops with a Difference are at 19 Fourth Cross Road, Twickenham, London TW2 5EL (01-894 3980).

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Quote me...



"After a decade of achievement, let us herald the decade of hope." Margaret Thatcher.

Exotics show

Since setting up Ends of the Earth as a mail-order business selling exotic wares from around the world, Janet Wiloughby has decided to hold a travelling exhibition of her

Mexican Indian carpets, Burmese wall-hangings, Thai jewellery and embroideries and weavings from West Africa. The tour starts today at the Central Library, The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, until January 13, moves to the Central Library Westgate, Oxford, from February 3-10, then to the Central Library in Lion Court, Cambridge, from March 24 to April 7 and on to other libraries and galleries around the country until December. Admission is free. Catalogues are 50p at the door or £1 in advance from Ends of the Earth, PO Box 31, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2AL (01-979 9979), which will give further information on future venues. All items at the exhibitions will be available through mail order.

First lesson

Courses for women executives has become a booming business. Costs vary from the reasonable (£15) to the ridiculous (£500) for a one-day event, and it can be confusing for the prospective delegate to decide which are worthwhile. The newsletter of the organization

Victoria McKee

Who will satisfy the decade's hunger?

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Undoubtedly there are now more estimable restaurants in the UK than ever before, Jonathan Meades writes in *The Times* on Saturday. But he maintains that this has come about despite the big chains. Chain ownership is the British norm, the way that family ownership is the French norm, and therein lies the probably unbridgeable gap — everyday

establishments are in the wrong hands. Meades' hopes lie in building up the middle ground of 1990s restaurants, starting with the ill-named winebar. What began as a tributary in the 1980s, he says, may well become a mainstream for the decade. He visits such a "middle" restaurant and finds the menu imaginative and the prices reasonable.

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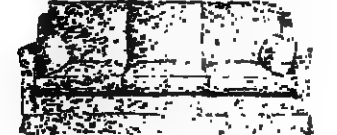


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TELEVISION & RADIO

هَذَا من الأصل

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Kari LloydStraight
from the
terraces

Peter Waymark

Struggling near the foot of the First Division, Millwall football club could probably do without the publicity of *Arrieverdici Millwall* (BBC2, 9.25pm), even if it is set back in 1982. The timing is deliberate, that being the year of both the World Cup in Spain and the Falklands war. Nick Perry's play links the two, as a bunch of Millwall fans happily take on board Argie-bashing xenophobia and one of the fans reacts to the death of his brother in the south Atlantic. *Arrieverdici Millwall* was first performed on stage in 1985 and won Perry, a student of the National Film and Television School, the Samuel Beckett Award. Its transfer to television marks the start of a series of dramas made by directors new to the small screen, in this case Charles McDougall, another product of the NFTS. If the purpose of the piece was to highlight the mindless thuggery of some football supporters, it succeeds only too well. Perry's uninhibited script is so convincingly acted that the cast could well have been recruited straight from the terraces. *Arrieverdici Millwall* throbs with a raw and bloody



A Millwall fan: brutally portrayed in Nick Perry's play (BBC2, 9.25pm)

energy, in which anything approaching conventional morality has long been jettisoned. The law of the jungle has been transposed to south London, and any ordinary law-abiding member of the public had better watch out. The trouble is that Perry gives the thugs no motivation. Their actions are unexplained and therefore difficult to sympathize with. Perhaps he is trying to make the point that the roughing up by the Spanish police is not a second wrong that makes a right. I doubt whether many of the audience will see it that way.

There can hardly be a greater contrast between *Arrieverdici Millwall* and the placid, well-ordered world of John Thaw's *Inspector Morse* (ITV, 8.00pm). Back for a new series of two-hour mysteries, the self-effacing Morse has become one of television's milkiest stars, attracting audiences of up to 15 million people. Perhaps the public appreciates a policeman who is not only honest but cultured enough to listen to classical music and a police series that echos car crashes and football fan violence. Tonight's offering, involving skeletons in an Oxford cupboard, co-stars Cheryl Campbell who has been away from the television screen for too long.

BBC

6.00 *Celebs*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Laurie Mayer and Nicholas Witchall with regular news headlines, analysis and interviews, business news, sport, regional news, travel and weather, and a review of the daily newspapers by Paul Cullen. 6.55 Regional news and weather.

8.00 News and weather followed by *Children's BBC*, presented by Lisa Jones and Andi Peters, beginning with *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (9.15) The *Charlie Brown* and *Snoopy Show* 9.30 *Fame and Misfortune*. Episode five of the six-part Australian drama starring Kylie Minogue, about the struggle to make dreams come true.

10.00 News and weather followed by *Why Don't You...?* Entertaining ideas for young people with tips on their hands 10.30 *Playdays*. With Elaine Harrigan and Ian Leighton (10.55 *Five to Eleven*). Ian Cuthbertson with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Head of the Class*. Charlie takes his class of prodigies to imagine what life will be like in the year 2050 11.30 *Peddles Up*. Hosts three of the international canoeing event from Llangollen, North Wales.

12.00 News and weather followed by *MacGyver: The Human Factor*. Mac is charged with the task of testing a unique security system which uses robots. Unfortunately, the system develops a mind of its own and traps its creator, the beautiful Jill. Starring Richard Dean Anderson. (Coast) 12.55 Regional news.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather.
1.30 *Neighbours*. Henry is upset, but his pride keeps him away from Brownie. (Coast) 1.55 *News* and weather. 1.30 *Santa Barbara*. August writes a note that is sent to the presidential aide. Followed by *Crimewatch*.

2.00 *Man of the Year*. Episode three of the four-part drama set in 18th-century Ireland and the boys are helping their friend Harriet, who is being threatened by Magistrate. Starring Lisa Harnett, Gail Harnett and Einar Om Harnettson.

3.00 *News* and weather 3.30 *Cartoon Street*. Another chance to see the New Year's Day episode.
4.00 *Worstcase*. The adventures of shaggy dog who has a normal existence until he meets Professor Dingley 4.15 *Rail's* *Adrian and the*. A new series in which Roll Harris introduces cartoons and news. Today he concentrates on Bugs Bunny, who celebrates his fiftieth anniversary this year.

4.40 *Mr. Magoo*. There's a Coach Coming In. The first of a seven-part series starring Stanley Baxter as a daffy wizard who ends up teaching at an English school.
5.10 *Blockbusters*. Bob Holmes hosts another round of the general knowledge quiz for fifth and sixth formers.

5.40 *News* with Sue Carpenter. Weather.
6.00 *Home and Away* (r).
6.30 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another unsuspecting worthy.

7.30 *Coronation Street*. Tracey makes a dramatic discovery about her father and Don makes a regrettable trip to the local betting shop. (Coast)
8.00 *Inspector Morse*. Internal Serpent. (Coast) (see Choice).
10.00 *News* at Ten with Iain Stewart and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.30 *News* and weather.

10.30 *Hands of a Stranger*. Part two. Narcotics Bureau chief Joe Hearn is continuing the search for the man who raped his wife, whom he suspects of infidelity, but who is increasingly erratic because he has put him in danger of losing his job. Starring Armand Assante, Blair Brown and Beverly D'Angelo.

12.00 *After the Sunset* (1980) starring Dudley Moore, Christopher Reeve and Liz Minelli. Comedy about Arthur who is very rich - and a drunk. He is engaged to the wealthy and responsible Susan Johnson when he falls in love with a prostitute. Directed by John Gorton. Followed by *News* headlines.

2.15 *America's Top Ten* with Casey Kasem.
2.45 *Music in the 80s - Don't Look Back*. A look back at the varying trends in popular music over the last decade including performances by the Police, Culture Club, Spandau Ballet, Madonna, the Pet Shop Boys, Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

4.40 *Fifty Years On* (p/w). Newsreels from 1940.
5.00 *ITV Morning News* with Richard Bann. Ends at 6.00.

BBC2

6.00 TV-am begins with *News* and *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Kays and from 7.00, by Mike Morris. A new series. Includes an item on holidays in the Seychelles. 8.50 *Wednesday* with Timmy Mallett. Young people's entertainment including a report on Mallett's travels in Jordan and Lebanon.

9.30 *The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin*. Teddy and friends set out to return to Ritoria (r) 9.50 *Thames News* and weather 10.00 *The Magic Mirror*. *Golden Locks - The Truth and The Frog King*. Presented by Kenny Wymark and Sarah Graham. 10.55 *Daily Duck in Aquatic Duck and Muscles Tussle* (r). 10.40 *News* headlines.

10.45 *File: Monkeys Go Home* (1980) starring Maurice Chevalier, Yvette Mimieux and Dean Jagger. Hank Dussard, an American, inherits an olive farm in Italy. He is welcomed on his arrival by the village priest and his congregation who are sceptical of Hank's chances of success. But they all underestimate the willingness to work of his four pet female chimpanzees. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen.

12.30 *Home and Away*. Bobby reads through the diary - and crucial events begin to fall into place.
1.00 *News* at One with John Suchet. Weather 1.30 *Thames News* and weather 1.30 *Santa Barbara*. August writes a note that is sent to the presidential aide. Followed by *Crimewatch*.

2.00 *Man of the Year*. Episode three of the four-part drama set in 18th-century Ireland and the boys are helping their friend Harriet, who is being threatened by Magistrate. Starring Lisa Harnett, Gail Harnett and Einar Om Harnettson.

3.00 *News* and weather 3.30 *Cartoon Street*. Another chance to see the New Year's Day episode.
4.00 *Worstcase*. The adventures of shaggy dog who has a normal existence until he meets Professor Dingley 4.15 *Rail's* *Adrian and the*. A new series in which Roll Harris introduces cartoons and news. Today he concentrates on Bugs Bunny, who celebrates his fiftieth anniversary this year.

4.40 *Mr. Magoo*. There's a Coach Coming In. The first of a seven-part series starring Stanley Baxter as a daffy wizard who ends up teaching at an English school.
5.10 *Blockbusters*. Bob Holmes hosts another round of the general knowledge quiz for fifth and sixth formers.

5.40 *News* with Sue Carpenter. Weather.
6.00 *Home and Away* (r).
6.30 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another unsuspecting worthy.

7.30 *Coronation Street*. Tracey makes a dramatic discovery about her father and Don makes a regrettable trip to the local betting shop. (Coast)
8.00 *Inspector Morse*. Internal Serpent. (Coast) (see Choice).
10.00 *News* at Ten with Iain Stewart and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.30 *News* and weather.

10.30 *Hands of a Stranger*. Part two. Narcotics Bureau chief Joe Hearn is continuing the search for the man who raped his wife, whom he suspects of infidelity, but who is increasingly erratic because he has put him in danger of losing his job. Starring Armand Assante, Blair Brown and Beverly D'Angelo.

12.00 *After the Sunset* (1980) starring Dudley Moore, Christopher Reeve and Liz Minelli. Comedy about Arthur who is very rich - and a drunk. He is engaged to the wealthy and responsible Susan Johnson when he falls in love with a prostitute. Directed by John Gorton. Followed by *News* headlines.

2.15 *America's Top Ten* with Casey Kasem.
2.45 *Music in the 80s - Don't Look Back*. A look back at the varying trends in popular music over the last decade including performances by the Police, Culture Club, Spandau Ballet, Madonna, the Pet Shop Boys, Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

4.40 *Fifty Years On* (p/w). Newsreels from 1940.
5.00 *ITV Morning News* with Richard Bann. Ends at 6.00.

BBC2

6.25 *The Third Man* (p/w) (r) 6.50 *Buck Rogers* (p/w) 6.55 *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe* (p/w)
7.25 *File: Follow the Fleet* (1932, b/w) starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. "Bake" Baker joins the navy when his girlfriend walks out on him. Directed by Mark Sandrich. (Coast)

11.10 *Herring, the Herring Gull*. A documentary film following the first five years in the life of a herring gull on the uninhabited island of Seepholm (r).
12.10 *A Year in the Life: Twenty Years On*. David and Sonia were married 20 years ago, shortly before the arrival of their first child, and their future looked bleak. Today they re-view the film about their made at that time.

1.00 *Barbie* (r) 1.15 *The Maryknights* (r) 1.30 *Songs of Praise from All Saints' Church*. Manow.
1.30 *News* and weather followed by *Country File* (r) 2.30 *Lady in Black*. Con McCann and his traditional sailing boat (r).

3.00 *News* and weather followed by "Madness". In the Air, Simon "Madness" Minter, Solo Hawk. Display Pilot of 1989, in an exhibition of his skills (r) 3.30 *Songs of Praise* 3.55 *News* and weather 4.00 *Catchword* hosted by Paul Cox 4.30 *The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*. Professor Charles Taylor traces the development of the modern keyboard.

5.30 *Holiday 80* (r) (Coast)
6.00 *DEF* begins with *The Invisible* 6.30 *File: The Invisible* 6.50 *File: The Invisible* 7.00 *File: The Invisible* 7.10 *File: The Invisible* 7.20 *File: The Invisible* 7.30 *File: The Invisible* 7.40 *File: The Invisible* 7.50 *File: The Invisible* 8.00 *File: The Invisible* 8.10 *File: The Invisible* 8.20 *File: The Invisible* 8.30 *File: The Invisible* 8.40 *File: The Invisible* 8.50 *File: The Invisible* 9.00 *File: The Invisible* 9.10 *File: The Invisible* 9.20 *File: The Invisible* 9.30 *File: The Invisible* 9.40 *File: The Invisible* 9.50 *File: The Invisible* 10.00 *File: The Invisible* 10.10 *File: The Invisible* 10.20 *File: The Invisible* 10.30 *File: The Invisible* 10.40 *File: The Invisible* 10.50 *File: The Invisible* 11.00 *File: The Invisible* 11.10 *File: The Invisible* 11.20 *File: The Invisible* 11.30 *File: The Invisible* 11.40 *File: The Invisible* 11.50 *File: The Invisible* 12.00 *File: The Invisible* 12.10 *File: The Invisible* 12.20 *File: The Invisible* 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High Street winners and losers under new rating structure

South-east fears effect of swingeing cost increases

By Mark Smeaton, Craig Seims and Peter Davenport

Businesses in London and the rest of the South-east will bear the brunt of rate increases announced yesterday, but commerce and industry in the North and Midlands have more reason to cheer.

Leading national retailing groups were yesterday still analysing the implications of the new uniform rate before issuing details, but Harrods, in the fashionable Knightsbridge area of London, described its increase - from £1 million to £3.3 million by 1995 - as "monstrous".

Mr David Simons, the House of Fraser finance director, said of the new rates: "We will be appealing against them with every hope of success. Increases of this magnitude are insupportable. We are confident common sense will prevail or else there will be a lot of empty shops in every High Street in Britain."

Mr Roy Shepherd, of the Oxford Street Traders' Association in London, condemned the re-valuation, a minimum of 27 per cent for his members, as "a doctrinaire solution to an age old problem", adding that it would compound almost all the problems already faced by retailers and would especially hit small businesses in the South.

In Greater Manchester, on the other hand, big stores will pay substantially reduced rates under the new system. Typical of the cuts, Lewis's in Market Street will have its £1.7 million bill reduced by £170,000. Debenhams' city-centre store will have its annual £1.3 million bill cut by £130,000.

The shock of the rates increase for Harrods is tempered by a decrease in the rates to be paid by Rackhams of Birmingham, a member of the House of Fraser group. Under the new uniform system, the department store, in Corporation Street, will see its current rate bill of about £1.3 million reduced to £758,000. Marks and Spencer, in High Street, will see its rates bill increase from £388,136 to about £480,000.

Mr Bernard Farrar, Birmingham's city treasurer, said: "The average business in Birmingham will benefit in the long term."

Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce agreed, saying: "Our view is

that, for industry, it will be good news in the long term." Although the introduction of the new uniform business rate is expected to lead to lower payments by commerce and industry in the North, businesses in York are faced with huge increases in rateable values similar to those in central London, with some firms facing up to 40-fold increases.

W.P. Brown, the locally owned department store in the city, faces a rates hike from £33,775 to £227,940, while the Woolworth rates bill will rise from £64,917 to £194,880.

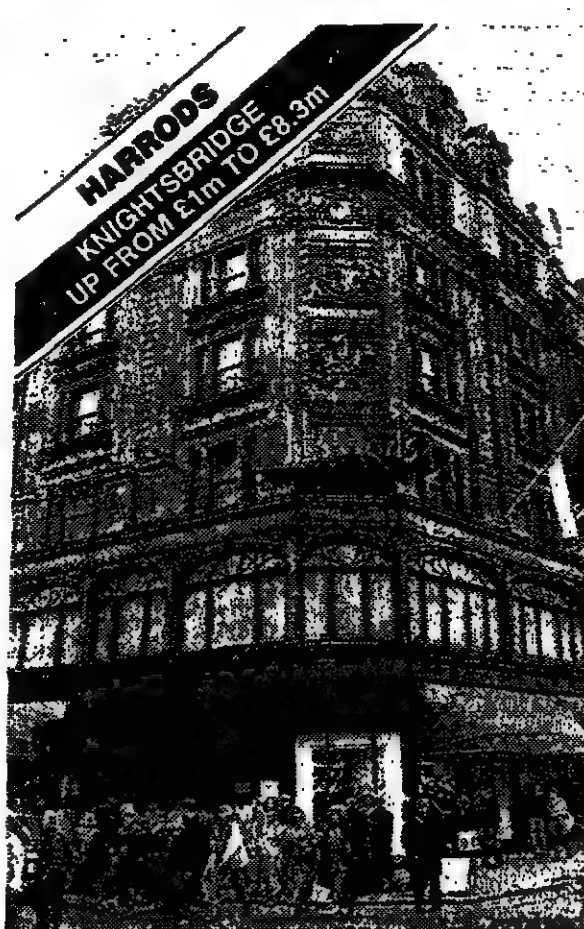
Among examples given by the CBI in Fenwick, the department store, whose rateable value is set to increase from just more than £25,000 to £1,020,000. Boots, the chemist, faces an increase from £20,805 to £500,000. Rowntree's confectionary factories from £490,963 to £4,630,000, and Terry's, the chocolate manufacturers, from £185,000 to £1,460,000.

Many small businesses are not yet aware of the effect of changes, and some large groups, such as the Asda supermarket chain, which has headquarters in Leeds, are still assessing the impact. Asda has about 350 retail properties, and expects half of its retail stores to be subject to the maximum allowable increase in the first year.

Many of the retailing giants had by yesterday not yet collated the rate changes for their stores, making regional comparisons not immediately possible.

Marks and Spencer, with 288 stores, said it was not surprised by the new rates. "As a national retailer we will have significant variations, some large increases tempered by other decreases. It will be swings and roundabouts," a spokesman said.

Mr John Roberts, the managing director of Next Retail, said he would be stepping up the firm's efficiency drive in view of the uniform business rate. "In recent years we have indulged ourselves in space and we are now taking a harder look at rationalizing this," he said, adding that the new system was not as significant as the large rent increases last year, which means rent and depreciation costs are still greater.



Swings and roundabouts: There will be many winners under the new universal business rate, but retail stores in London and South-east England stand to face the most crippling rises.

'Nothing to fear' in one Germany

Continued from page 1

relations between France and East and West Germany.

Standing at the Brandenburg Gate with Herr Gerlach, President Havel commented: "Kennedy said in the presence of the Wall that he was a Berliner. I would like to take the liberty of repeating that sentence in a new time and a new context."

Mr Havel was accompanied by Mr Marian Calfa, his Prime Minister, who held talks about Czechoslovak-East German relations with Herr Hans Modrow, his East Berlin counterpart.

Mr Havel spoke of the need for "new impulses" in both countries and said that he aimed to "remove the barriers, walls and barbed wire which divide Europe". As he

walked along the Berlin Wall and shook hands with East German border guards, President Havel said that East Germany deserved the thanks of all Europeans for removing the worst wall of all.

He said that the process of German reunification now needed to be worked out by negotiation rather than wild gestures. "Most of Czechoslovakia borders on to East or West Germany," he said. "Germany virtually surrounds us. It must free its neighbours of fear, especially the fear of a greater Germany." President Havel pledged his country's support for removing all barriers within Europe, and called for new impulses in the relationship with East Germany.

In Munich later, more than

300 people greeted Mr Havel with cheers and chants of "Havel, Havel" when he arrived at the Prince Carl Palace, the official residence of the Bavarian Prime Minister, for a meeting with President von Weizsäcker of West Germany. Several placards bore the messages "Long live Havel" and "Free elections", in the Czech language.

As the two Presidents talked, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, met Mr Calfa. Mr Havel later insisted on meeting representatives of the Opposition in Bonn, including Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of the Social Democratic Party.

Mr Havel told a joint press conference with President von

Weizsäcker that everyone could understand the reasons why he had visited both German states in one day. He was also happy that his visit to West Germany had taken place in Munich. "As a democrat, I see in that a certain symbolism."

However, although his brief visit was intended originally to have a symbolic character, it had turned into a working visit in which many concrete questions had been discussed.

President von Weizsäcker said the talks had covered people-to-people contacts, new border crossings, economic co-operation, the environment and culture. He also emphasized the symbolism of President Havel's visit, saying it was a sign of a "new good neighbourliness".

Women warned on prison sentences

Continued from page 1

alone on state benefits," Miss Bradshaw said.

The court was told that five other women involved in the case had received custodial sentences ranging from 21 days to three months.

Judge Pickles said he was concerned that mother and baby should not be separated. He said it appeared Scott had become pregnant after the offences came to light. "I am not saying she became pregnant deliberately in order to evade custody, but you see my point. Would it be right to let young women know that one way of possibly or probably avoiding custody would be to deliberately become pregnant between the time they have

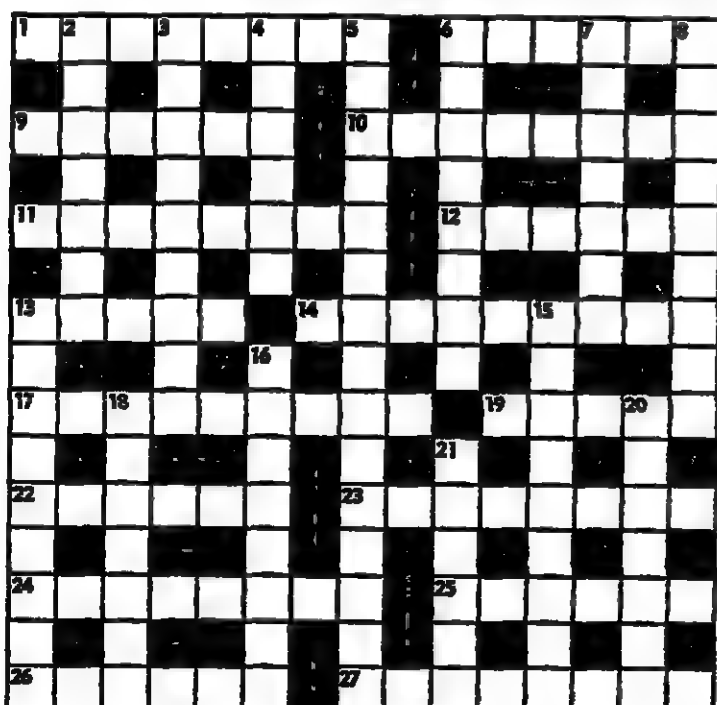
been detected committing a crime and the time they were being sentenced?"

"I have to consider young women who even now may be considering whether it is worthwhile to commit an offence such as this, and one does not want to encourage them," he said.

Judge Pickles said Scott had pleaded guilty and had assisted police in identifying other thieves. She was only 19 and had no previous convictions. She had a fragmented early life, through no fault of her own, and her life now appeared to be a lonely one.

"I am concerned about the baby... I don't want to see her standing where you are in 19 or 20 years' time," he said.

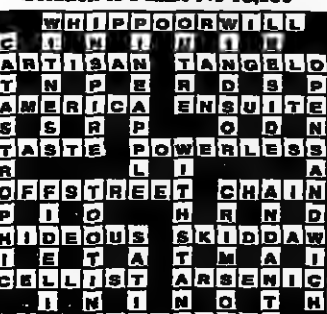
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,181



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pear concoction with vermouth, if taken as an appetizer (8).
 - 6 Girl leads way, being a monitor, possibly (6).
 - 9 Hard-working? Not us in the recording room! (6).
 - 10 Very bungry, like Poe's portentous visitor? (8).
 - 11 Flighty type demanding money for an instrument (8).
 - 12 To a limited extent? Most assuredly! (6).
 - 13 Journalist motoring in the wood (5).
 - 14 The guns return with a body to a meeting of men only (4-5).
 - 17 Show in which poor pie-man kept cat (9).
 - 19 Caution a Republican accepting a British honour (5).
 - 22 The third man in pursuit of one's woman (6).

- DOWN**
- 2 Depression suffered by travellers on the way? (3-4).
 - 3 Russian and German worker dismissed as superfluous (9).
 - 4 King embraced by subject - 13 dn, possibly (6).
 - 5 In memory of an ancient newspaper's former days? (3,3,5,4).
 - 6 Purchase newspaper during assembly (8).
 - 7 An additional article on him, do we infer? (7).
 - 8 Apollon breaking reeds around Ilium (9).
 - 13 Sign as commander of navy giving support to island (9).
 - 15 Almost admire a lieutenant unknown to the Navy Board (9).
 - 16 Rival cooks meal out on river (8).
 - 18 Dined at home - most economical (7).
 - 20 Subterfuge upsets no one, except when climbing (7).
 - 21 Quickly arrests headband - a Parisian gangster (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,180



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MALTA

a. Ancient pitch

b. A Flemish letter

c. A Scottish girl's name

ULTION

a. Revenge

b. The last

c. A water paint

ATOK

a. Barren, childless

b. A skull

c. A Japanese board game

RAMFEZZLED

a. Wura sat

b. Bamboozled

c. Stymied at primitive golf

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (M4-M1 & S. Circ.) 731

M4-M1 (M4-M1) 732

M1-M4 (M1-M4) 733

M4-M1 (M4-M1) 734

M1-M4 (M1-M4) 735

M4-M1 (M4-M1) 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise Crossword, page 16

WEATHER

It will be cloudy over Britain with rain in the north and west. Any fog patches should clear during the morning with cloud breaking over England and eastern Wales to give bright spells. West Wales and Cornwall, however, might have rain, as might Scotland and Northern Ireland. Fog patches will reform in the evening, especially in southern and eastern England. Becoming windy in places. Outlook: more rain.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=cloud; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=clear; 6=rain; 7=heavy rain; 8=thunder; 9=light; 10=cloud; 11=rain; 12=heavy rain; 13=thunder; 14=light; 15=cloud; 16=rain; 17=heavy rain; 18=thunder; 19=light; 20=cloud; 21=rain; 22=heavy rain; 23=thunder; 24=light; 25=cloud; 26=rain; 27=heavy rain; 28=thunder; 29=light; 30=cloud; 31=rain; 32=heavy rain; 33=thunder; 34=light; 35=cloud; 36=rain; 37=heavy rain; 38=thunder; 39=light; 40=cloud; 41=rain; 42=heavy rain; 43=thunder; 44=light; 45=cloud; 46=rain; 47=heavy rain; 48=thunder; 49=light; 50=cloud; 51=rain; 52=heavy rain; 53=thunder; 54=light; 55=cloud; 56=rain; 57=heavy rain; 58=thunder; 59=light; 60=cloud; 61=rain; 62=heavy rain; 63=thunder; 64=light; 65=cloud; 66=rain; 67=heavy rain; 68=thunder; 69=light; 70=cloud; 71=rain; 72=heavy rain; 73=thunder; 74=light; 75=cloud; 76=rain; 77=heavy rain; 78=thunder; 79=light; 80=cloud; 81=rain; 82=heavy rain; 83=thunder; 84=light; 85=cloud; 86=rain; 87=heavy rain; 88=thunder; 89=light; 90=cloud; 91=rain; 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Higgs and Hill hybrid clouds the issue

[illegible]

Appointment of receiver could trigger creditors' demands, court told

Bond warns of claims rush

From Martin Wina, Sydney

Lawyers representing Bond Corporation told the Victoria Supreme Court yesterday that the appointment of a receiver at Mr Alan Bond's Australian breweries could trigger a rush of claims by other creditors owed more than Aus\$6 billion (£2.97 billion).

Bond Corp is trying to overturn the appointment of the receiver and Mr Allan Myers, a lawyer for the company, asked the court for an examination of Mr Peter Mitchell, a Bond Corp director, to be done as quickly as possible to allow him to accompany fellow officials to New York to meet aggrieved creditors on Friday.

Two American banks belong to the syndicate of lenders which called for the appointment of receiver-managers. A Bond Corp spokesman named syndicate members - between them owed Aus\$700 million - as National Australia Bank, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp, Standard Chartered, Société Générale, First National Bank of Boston, Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp, Pittsburgh National Bank, and Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Other American investors who hold debentures worth about Aus\$800 million account for most of the rest of the breweries' debt of Aus\$1.6 billion. The breweries were due to make a US\$52 million (£32 million) interest payment to the US debenture holders on December 31. But Bond Corp said although it had the

money ready, the bank syndicate had blocked payment.

The American investors are poised to launch their own legal action to have Bond Brewing placed in liquidation after the company missed a final deadline yesterday to pay US\$35 million of interest due on an issue of debt securities.

The cash has been withheld by a syndicate of banks, which on Friday appointed KPMG Peat Marwick Hungerford, the accountant, as receiver of Bond Brewing. Bond lawyers

argued against the move, saying Bond Brewing had been given only 30 minutes on Friday to repay its Aus\$800 million senior borrowings.

Shares in Adelaide Steamship, which owns 20 per cent of Bell, plunged 22 cents to Aus\$6.06 yesterday on fears that Bell will be unable to recoup an Aus\$1.2 billion deposit it has paid for the breweries and that Adsteam will lose its Aus\$180 million investment.

The hearing continues.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Japan exchanges hard cash for a seat at table

The warning bells were ringing for the United States savings and loans industry even before Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrator, bought a couple of "thrills" so as to be able to take advantage of the dramatic financial gearing they offered to dealers. At a conference a decade ago, Paul Volcker, then chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave warning that they were getting into deep water with investments outside their traditional area of housing finance. It transpired soon afterwards that not only was the water too deep for the swimming capabilities of the thrills, but also that the water was infested with sharks.

What happened next, as they say, is now history, but the reverberations will be felt for years. One aspect which is only just beginning to surface is that the need for capital in the US is becoming acute, and that it is likely to be met by the Japanese. Japanese banks and financial institutions dwarf those of even the US, and they could recapitalize the entire US banking sector without causing any stress back home in Tokyo.

In the latest issue of *Harvard Business Review*, David Hale, a noted American thinker on business and chief economist of Kemper Financial Services, says the US stock market will have trouble generating the funds required to recapitalize the thrift industry and strengthen bank balance sheets, especially if interest rates rise

sharply and highly leveraged companies get into difficulties. The Japanese would step in, and the US would find itself facing the same market erosion in financial services that has afflicted its producers of machine tools, automobiles and semiconductors.

The combination of Japanese infiltration and memories of the thrift crisis are likely to lead, Hale believes, to the extension of what has become known as "managed trade", where the watchwords are reciprocity backed with the threat of retaliation. In financial services, managed trade is already a reality. For instance, although American banking assets in Japan are only \$30 billion (£18.5 billion), US financial companies have been allocated small but profitable niches in Japan's protected financial markets in return for a strong foothold in US commercial lending and government securities trading.

There is evidence, according to Hale, of quiet but effective suasion by the Federal Reserve and the Japanese Ministry of Finance to regulate the growth of the Japanese share of the US banking market and the behaviour of Japanese banks in the US.

But at the end of the day, all sides recognize that there is no way that the Japanese can be expected to provide finance to lubricate western banking systems without being allowed to use their massive strength to compete.

Liberal view of savings tax

Investors who have wondered why personal equity plans are - even now - so bureaucratically inconvenient, or why pension schemes seem designed to ensure that mass saving does not result in any wider distribution of inherited wealth, might take a look at the latest policy paper from the Liberal Democrats. If they do, they will surely regret that it will probably get no further than the shelf reserved for other people's good ideas.

The Liberal Democrats and their forebears have been coming up with sensible plans for tax and benefit reforms for many years. Save for the odd wild moments when the centre might have grasped a real share of power, they have, however, been academic because the two main parties have never seriously taken them up. The Conservatives did once entertain a combined tax and benefit scheme, but it was dismissed as too expensive, the automatic take-up of benefits removing scope for tax cuts.

The latest proposals, which take the simplified and integrated approach even further, should - but probably will not - bear close study by Labour. But the ideas on taxation of savings might be taken up by either of the main parties with profit and without obvious ideological cost.

The basic idea is to tax all savings at the same rate. That is no novelty. Nigel Lawson made an energetic start to achieving tax neutrality on a step by step basis, but as soon as he started taking really big steps, such as reforming pensions, he was stopped in his tracks. After melding capital gains with income and managing to treat building society and bank deposits equally, he felt he had gone as far as he would be allowed and gave up.

The Liberal Democrat proposals, another variant of the America's Individual Retirement Accounts, suggest that all savings should be treated like personal pensions. Savings would be tax deductible up to an unspecified maximum proportion of income. Investments could be made in virtually anything except cars or second homes and investment returns would also be tax free within the account. Withdrawals could be made at any time, but would be taxable as income.

Mr Lawson and others would have liked to have done this kind of thing, but were deterred by potential tax cost and avoidance by the rich. Given the cuts in higher rate taxes and the country's desperate shortage of net savings, the cost should surely be reassessed.

Sunseekers powers to record

PETER TREHOWN



Sunseekers' Robert Braithwaite, left, with brother John: new assembly base in Canada to feed a hungry American market.

Mr Robert Braithwaite and Mr John Braithwaite, the brothers who head Sunseekers, the luxury yacht and powerboat builder, are celebrating record sales and exports with an additional assembly base just opened in Canada (Derek Harris writes).

The Poole-based business, started in a shed just over 20 years ago, has won two Queen's Awards for export achievement. It claims to be Britain's second biggest boat

builder after Marine Projects, and the leading boats exporter. In the year to last April its turnover was £22 million, which is expected to rise 60 per cent to £35 million in this financial year. The increase springs mainly from last year's opening of a third manufacturing unit in Dorset, principally to expand its production of larger boats.

Sunseeker craft are priced at about £100,000 on average, but can be as little as £18,000 and as much as £500,000. About 95 per cent of the 450 boats built last year went for export. It is because the company wants to boost sales to the United States, the biggest single national market for leisure boats, that an assembly and servicing plant has been set up near Quebec in Canada. Current exports to the US are running at about £500,000 a year.

Another market the brothers aim to develop is Japan. Mr Robert Braithwaite said: "The Japanese are not yet on a wide scale a boating people but we believe there is much potential there." Next month, for the second year, Sunseekers will be exhibiting at the Tokyo boat show.

The Braithwaites began boat-building in 1968. In the first year they produced four boats, almost as now at the quality end of the market.

Banks affirm prop as Westmex drops

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

Senior bankers rallied behind besieged investment group Westmex yesterday in an effort to stem market speculation that it will become Australia's next major corporate casualty.

Their show of support came after Westmex, which owns 60 per cent of British clothing and shoe group Charterhall, suffered another battering on the Australian Stock Exchange, with its shares dropping 11 cents to a record low of 28 cents. Charterhall remained suspended in London at 9 1/2p.

Brokers said that investors both in Australia and Britain bailed out of the stock en masse amid speculation that lenders were reviewing their exposure of Aus\$250 million (£123.7 million) to Westmex

and Mr Russell Goward, its chairman. However, Westmex's principal creditor, the State Bank of New South Wales and Westpac Banking Corp, yesterday affirmed their backing for the heavily geared company and its plans for a major restructuring.

Mr Goward, who owns 26 per cent of Westmex, disclosed last month he was considering an Aus\$100 million equity injection or a partial takeover of the company to return it to an even keel.

The planned revamp, which had been due to go before shareholders for approval early this month, followed a slide in Westmex's shares from a peak of \$1.30 last October.

Stanley pays £10m for eight casinos

By Gillian Bewditch

Stanley Leisure, Mr Leonard Steinberg's bookmaking and casino group, has acquired eight provincial casinos from Leisure Leisure, the third market company, for £10.7 million.

The casinos, which are being bought for cash out of Stanley's existing resources, are situated in Bolton, Liverpool, Southampton, Coventry, Bournemouth, Southampton, Margate and Portsmouth. They take the group's casino portfolio to 17.

Stanley is now in joint second position with Slakia, behind Mecca which has 27 casinos. Stanley has a put option, exercisable in December, to buy the freeholds of the casinos at Southampton and Bournemouth for £4 million. The casinos made pre-tax

profits of £1.34 million on a turnover of £7.34 million in 1988. Net assets were £1.9 million and net liabilities, including inter-company debt, was £2.88 million.

Mr Steinberg, Stanley's chairman, said that unlike the London casinos, the provincial ones had not been affected by the economic slowdown.

The group would now concentrate on consolidating the casino business and the 310 betting shops, he said. There were no plans for a rights issue or vendor placing in the foreseeable future.

Stanley shares rose 4p to 240p. The group will announce its half-year results to October this month. Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of £4.1 million against £2.4 million last time.

Salmon calling Simon

Released from his golden handcuffs at the end of 1989, Simon Frisby, a one-time partner of de Zoete & Bevan, has retired at the age of 56 from his position as a director of UK equities at BZW. He plans to spend more time shooting and fishing, especially in chilly Icelandic waters. His 32-year career in the City - he joined Bevan Simpson in 1957 - was brought to an emotional close yesterday. After a farewell luncheon at the Gresham Club, he was drummed off BZW's trading floor, in a surprise ceremony, by two drummers of the Coldstream Guards. For Frisby was once a lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards and was recalled for duty during Suez. His family's association with the army has been a long and notable one. His uncle Cyril was awarded the VC as a captain in the Coldstream Guards, his son Richard also served with the same regiment, and his father, Lt Col L C Frisby, was awarded a DSO and an MC during his years with the Welsh Regiment. Greybeards in the Square Mile will no doubt recall that Cyril and "L C" were the original characters behind an old-told tale, now part of City folklore. They jointly ran a successful rubber broking business between the wars. Frisby Brothers and market colleagues referred to Cyril as "Mr Frisby" and "L C" as "the coward" - "Because he only had the DSO and the MC," says one.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No alighting in the well

John Wilson, chairman of Peter Cox Group, the property preservation specialist, now admits that some of the time carried off by his employees goes right over his head. He cites a meeting he attended on the sixth floor of Banque Indosuez's Bishopsgate offices, with Financière Indosuez managing director Anton Bodley Jacobus, to structure his £10.8 million management buyout from John Mowlem Group. While there, he was unaware that No

Perch Bird Control, one of Cox's subsidiaries, was in the process of netting off a lighting well to protect it from pigeon droppings. Such lofty work has, he reveals, also gone on at the twin golden eagles atop Eagle Star's headquarters in St Marys Ave, where concealed wires have been implanted to scare pigeons away. Meanwhile Banque Indosuez is to launch a specialist management buyout division this year - but it will not be using pigeons to spread the news.

P&D poser

A clue for a crossword published in the *Financial Times*



"How else do we pay our business rates?"

Hestair history

After 19 successive years, 1990 will almost certainly be the last for David Hargreaves as the chairman of Hestair, the former root harvester and dustcart manufacturer that has now switched into employment agencies. By January 1991 either Adia, the Swiss conglomerate, or BET, its British counterpart, will be at the helm. But the £190 million tussle between the two bidders for Hestair is far from being the worst crisis that Hargreaves has had to endure. As one of the few acquisition vehicles set rolling during the 1974 stock market crash, Hargreaves has recently been reflecting over the past decade or two. "After the crash we were capitalized at just £630,000 in a year when our profits turned out to be £2 million before tax, yet we could not get anyone to lend us the money to take it off the market," he recalls, adding that Hestair's shares tumbled from 176p to 12p. The panic at that time had to be seen to be believed, he says. Indeed he vividly remembers lunching with one well known chairman of a public company - whom he refuses to identify - and who told him that there would be fighting in the streets by Christmas adding as a parting shot that "the end of capitalism as we know it" was at hand.

Sign in a London green-grocery shop, attached to a display of bananas: "Please don't separate us - we grew up together."

Carol Leonard

Hodson takes the helm at Singer

By Neil Bennett

Mr John Hodson has taken over as chief executive of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant banking group, replacing Mr Tony Solomon, who becomes non-executive director.

Mr Hodson has been an executive at the company for more than 20 years, and said he would continue all its major operations without any fundamental changes.

Observers said they expected him to invest the group's £40 million in net cash in further share stakes. Singer already has a 16 per cent holding in Apricot, the computer group.

Singer's shares have been depressed recently on persistent reports that British & Commonwealth is having difficulties selling its 10 per cent stake. Yesterday they closed unchanged at 67p.



Business as usual: John Hodson, new chief executive at Singer & Friedlander, yesterday

Carron accepts Franke bid

By Melinda Wittstock

Carron Phoenix, the USM-quoted maker of kitchen sinks and commercial catering equipment, has accepted an £8.32 million bid from Franke Holdings, its Swiss counterpart.

Franke, a private holding company for a number of multinational companies whose interests range from kitchen sinks to industrial components, sanitary equipment and bathroom furniture, has already received accep-

tances totalling 32.7 per cent of its 73p cash offer.

The agreed bid tops a previously agreed 60p offer by Etablissement Bene et Cie, the French kitchen sink manufacturer to which the Carron directors earlier pledged their 17.4 per cent stake.

Though Carron directors have urged shareholders to accept the Franke offer, they will not themselves be able to pledge their stake unless the Bene bid lapses or is with-

drawn. Bene said yesterday it was considering whether or not to come back with a higher offer and would make a further statement "in due course."

Carron shares fell from 5p to 74p.

The Franke offer represents a 109 per cent premium to the Carron share price of 35p the day before the Bene deal was announced, and a 22 per cent premium to the Bene offer itself.

More writs over Collins

At least two more writs will be issued soon against former directors of EJ Collins, the broking firm in liquidation. Last week a writ was issued against Mr Anthony Tyjas, a former director, for £365,820. It alleged Mr Tyjas had been dealing on behalf of himself or nominees while a director and had lost money. Mr Tyjas is defending the claim.

The firm had a deficit of almost £3 million when declared in default last March.

Norfolk Capital sells Sloane Club

By Martin Walker

Norfolk Capital Group, the hotels company which is locked in a battle with dissident shareholders, has agreed to sell its Sloane Club in London, for £18 million in a move which is likely to spark fresh controversy.

The Sloane Club, which started life in 1922 for the use of lady officers in the armed forces, was bought in May 1988 by Norfolk, for £14.5 million. But it experienced problems developing the residential club within the four and five star market of its St James clubs.

The disposal adds fuel to the row over Norfolk's future. The dissidents, led by Mr Peter Tyrie's Balmoral International hotels group, are attempting to unseat

the existing management at an extraordinary meeting on January 29.

"This is a rushed sale at a low price by a management that has lost their way," said a Balmoral spokesman. "It proves the wisdom of Balmoral's strategy."

Mr Tyrie said his proposals for the extraordinary meeting include a block on any further acquisitions or disposals by the group. "I think it would be rather unwise for them to do anything before a major meeting like that. It's probably the first big disposal since about 1986. It makes a mockery of the whole direction in which they are going."

But Norfolk confirmed completion of the deal is set for January 18, well before the egn. The sale is to Thomas Peterson Associates, a private company making

its first entry into hotels. The proceeds will be used to cut Norfolk's £70 million borrowings, cutting gearing to about 25 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Its shareholders are braced for a war of words between the management and Mr Tyrie, who is attempting to put his own candidates on the board. Within a fortnight the first boardside from the management, headed by the managing director, Mr Peter Eyles, will go out.

A spokesman for Norfolk said the disposal is unconnected with Mr Tyrie's attack and has been under negotiation for six months. The disposal of the club is part of a "continuous review of the company's portfolio." It made £1.06 million trading profits in the first 11 months of last year.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Thin trading

هذا من الاصل

Portfolio PLATINUM

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27, Dealings end January 12, Contango day January 15, Settlement day January 22.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 22).

Portfolio PLATINUM

DAILY DIVIDEND

£2,000

Claims required for +55 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

and declining... almost evenly... chips dominated... Toys R Us... a... retailer, jumped by 30%... company said that... sales were 22.7%... above the similar period... ago... Tokyo - The market... for a public holiday... Dec 28... Dec 29... 13%... 14%... 15%... 16%... 17%... 18%... 19%... 20%... 21%... 22%... 23%... 24%... 25%... 26%... 27%... 28%... 29%... 30%... 31%... 32%... 33%... 34%... 35%... 36%... 37%... 38%... 39%... 40%... 41%... 42%... 43%... 44%... 45%... 46%... 47%... 48%... 49%... 50%... 51%... 52%... 53%... 54%... 55%... 56%... 57%... 58%... 59%... 60%... 61%... 62%... 63%... 64%... 65%... 66%... 67%... 68%... 69%... 70%... 71%... 72%... 73%... 74%... 75%... 76%... 77%... 78%... 79%... 80%... 81%... 82%... 83%... 84%... 85%... 86%... 87%... 88%... 89%... 90%... 91%... 92%... 93%... 94%... 95%... 96%... 97%... 98%... 99%... 100%... CANADIAN STOCKS... 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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued on next page

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A titled prominent Public Figure in the exclusive world of Haute Couture and Interior Design... is looking for an Assistant to organise everything in her incredibly demanding life - all aspects including a very busy personal life - social events! The words "Medicine" and "Adequacy" do not figure in your vocabulary and you never overlook even the smallest detail. She is utterly charming and needs very little secretarial but you do need shorthand and typing and incredible initiative and drive. From your own office in Kensington - a stunning private residence - you will be co-ordinating one of the most exciting women in business today and if you are looking for a challenge this may be it!

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GO TO YOUR PR LAUNCH IN A HELICOPTER!

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I depend on you. Everyone you go out for me you represent my Company - and that's important. We handle some of the most illustrious Clients across the board, in the Capital today. For my part, I will support you all the way and do my best to ensure your happiness in every single booking you go out and do for me. Whether you want to try something new, gain specialist experience or simply earn money - I am interested. Work is literally pouring in and I need enthusiastic people now... call me personally today for a chat (ask for Lisa Martin).

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"X" PLC. who will win? ... probably the side with the most accurate and detailed information on the People in Power... the most minute piece of vital role where you will have extensive client contact, assist in preparing and making presentations and learn all about marketing. You will also be able to use languages (if you have them). In turn he requires excellent organisational ability. 'A' levels or a degree, background in a similar industry and skills of 90/50/WP. Age 23-35. Please call Samantha Brander on 01-437 6032.

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Wait into this beautiful Reception - marble, fountains, no expense spared... working as Receptionist, representing this very young and friendly W1 Company to every new arrival. This is their International HQ - people arrive here from all over the world and it is your job to look after them all. Nothing is too much trouble for your esteemed Client. With you and so there is virtually NO switchboard. An elegant poised Hostess - you maintaining Board Lunches - decide which conference rooms Clients will use and organise the tea-lady! Needless to say your presentation must be superb and we really are looking for a warm-hearted person, aged 20-30!

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HOLD THE DREAM

Potential Salary £20,000 + 8 wk. Pkgs

No longer is it necessary for you to sit there miserably wondering if there is any Employer-out there who really does offer something EXCITING... Leap into a world of freedom where you will be your own boss to create and build your own reputation as a top Recruitment Consultant. Our expansion plans are prolific... today London, tomorrow Europe... AND some of the most exciting ideas there will be in recruitment revolution. After three years in business we are ranked in the top eight agencies in London! We are scouring London for a wholly exceptional person with a tremendous capacity to learn and in return we always offer unlimited Prospects (both Corporate and Financial). Ideally you will have some commercial experience (Property or Advertising very useful). 'A' Level Education, definitely well-spoken BUT most important of all is a consistently strong & happy personality - a will to succeed. No recruitment experience necessary, we will train but you do need basic typing (for your own correspondence). If you are under 25 call Amanda Maine-Tucker for an interesting discussion!

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SECRETARY/PA

Required by West End Property Financing Company.

Reporting to Managing Director, this challenging position requires excellent secretarial, organisational and communication skills. Tel: John Freeman 01-325 2258.

START A NEW DECADE IN SW6

With young, vibrant interior Designers as Secretary/PA.



MEDIA & MARKETING

Where freedom has to stop ...

Myths can be potent instruments of political change, and they are often very difficult to dislodge. One such myth is the belief that last year's crop of massive libel damages shows that juries — and thus the public — hold newspapers in such contempt that they would welcome legislation to curb their excesses. (The fact that by far the biggest award was against publishers of the privately circulated pamphlet attacking the conduct of Lord Aldington is of course regarded as irrelevant.)

The results of a poll carried out by MORI for the *News of the World* in November shows, however, that public opinion is much more complex and evenly weighted than some of our legislators would have us believe. For a start there is no overwhelming belief that newspapers behave irresponsibly. To the question, "On balance, do you agree or disagree that the press generally behaves responsibly in Britain?", 46 per cent agreed and 49 per cent disagreed.

Nevertheless, it is abundantly clear that the public is worried about intrusions into people's privacy.

An overwhelming majority (76 per cent) believe that newspapers intrude too much into the lives of public figures. All the same, when asked more specific questions, the public supported intrusion to expose criminal conduct (90 per cent), political extremism (67 per cent), matters of potential public interest (59 per cent) and, interestingly enough, "to expose personal hypocrisy such as a politician or trade union leader who pretends support for family life while having an affair" (55 per cent).

True to form the public cares most about cruelty to animals. Asked "If ordinary people are involved in scandals, is it right or wrong to report them?", no fewer than 95 per cent said "right", for cases involving cruelty to animals, 94 per cent for child abuse, 92 per cent for acts of vandalism, but only 25 per cent in cases of adultery.

In fact there appears to be a strong belief that the sexual activities of public figures, where questions of hypocrisy do not arise, should be left alone. Seventy six per cent of the public thought newspapers were wrong to publicize a story about the secret affair of England's football manager, and 51 per cent felt the same about a television presenter's

involvement with the use of cocaine and consorting with call girls. Equally, 78 per cent thought it was wrong to pay Pamela Bordes for her story. Of those polled, 84 per cent condemned any payment to Marina Oshiby, Princess Alexandra's daughter.

Payments for stories, in general, appear to arouse considerable disapproval. Payments to criminals, their girlfriends or associates are strongly condemned, as are payments to royal servants or police officers. And most people (53 per cent) think it is wrong for newspapers to pay politicians for their memoirs. Presumably people feel that ex-Ministers have already been well paid by the taxpayer for their political services and deserve no more. On the other hand payments to victims of crime and to sports stars are approved. There is strong support for the view that, where newspapers give only one side of a story, a person involved should get a right to reply, and even damages.

But what remedy does the public support to correct any serious errors? It is fascinating to discover that only a minority (29 per cent) seek to reform the press through "tighter laws passed by parliament".

The Calcutt Committee on privacy and related matters will soon begin to draw up its own recommendations. Of course, it will not be influenced directly by any indications of what the public is thinking. But its members might realize that parliamentary opinion and public opinion can be very different.

THE PRESS
Charles Wintour

More news of the news

Andrew Lycett on a new magazine for journalists

From next week, 20,000 journalists will find a new, free periodical on their desks every Wednesday. *Journalist's Week*, which will also be available from limited outlets at £1 a copy, is a controlled circulation magazine from the same Robert Maxwell-owned stable as *Media Week*. It aims to challenge the established *UK Press Gazette* as the main weekly medium for journalistic news and recruitment advertising.

With the raised level of interest in media topics from the Broadcasting Bill through libel awards to Press Council reform — its success seems assured. Or is it?

Predictably, perhaps, Tony Loyne, editor and publisher of the *Gazette*, is not so certain. Although he welcomes "healthy competition" he believes Maxwell may have missed the mark commercially. "Recruitment advertising has fallen away. Even we are only doing half what we did last year," he says.

Paul Sparks, associate publisher of *Journalist's Week*, is undeterred. He argues that there are other areas of journalism-related advertising which have been neglected by the *Gazette*. He particularly notes peripheral equipment. "Journalists want to know what sort of tape-recorder they should buy," he says.

Sparks claims that *Journalist's Week* will be more practical than its rivals. As well as product information, its interviews with established journalists will seek to impart tips on specific skills, such as City or court reporting. Editors will be quizzed on their freelance rates, and sub-editors will learn more about the different electronic editing systems.

Although *Journalist's Week* shares an office with its sister magazine, *Media Week*, five years old next month, the two papers are editorially distinct; the former specifically targeting journalists, and the latter aimed at buyers and



sellers of advertising space. Sparks, formerly marketing manager at EMAP MacLaren, has recruited an editorial team of eight. Editor of the new magazine is Mike Hewitt, a former editor of *The Publisher*. He is assisted by Caroline Banks, until recently editor of *Newspaper Focus*, the Haymarket publication aimed at newspaper managers.

Journalist's Week will reach a broader cross-section of journalists than the *Gazette*, with its "regional newspaper bias", Sparks says. He admits, however, that he has had

difficulty obtaining lists of employees from some national newspaper management, which may limit the paper's penetration. Loyne, a former deputy editor of the *Evening Star*, Ipswich, seizes on this detail to trumpet the advantages of the *Gazette*, which has a paid-for ABC circulation of 10,404. "People actually pay for my publication," he says.

He argues that this is much more attractive to advertisers than a controlled circulation magazine, which necessarily

featured in many of the tabloid reports, did not include Salou in its winter brochure, but says it will in summer. Peter Rothwell, marketing director of the travel agent Lunn Poly, says: "We are selling holidays in Salou, but in reduced numbers."

The typhoid scare could not have come at a worse time for all concerned. Britain's package holiday industry is undergoing one of the worst recessions in its short history; most estimates predict the number of holidays sold in 1990 will be 25 per cent down on last year.

The traditional post-Christmas Day blitz of holiday advertisements was largely absent from our television screens, as tour operators, with greatly scaled-down programmes for 1990, decided to concentrate their marketing budgets on brochures. Instead, many are stressing the quality and range of holidays on offer.

Alexander Garrett

Costa confidence

Advertising cheap holidays hits a new pitch

offered 30,000 holidaymakers the choice of an alternative destination or their money back. Up to 60,000 tourists were reported to have cancelled bookings at the resort.

Now Salou plans to restore confidence with the help of a public relations and marketing campaign.

Pippa Isobel's London-based company PIPR, has been talking with Salou representatives to launch the campaign, to be funded by the town's hoteliers in conjunction with the local Catalan government. Isobel says it will tell travel agents and tour operators of the improvements made to Salou's water supply, which include a new purification plant. "It

will probably also involve taking some journalists there so for themselves," she adds.

Isobel does not believe, however, that a large-scale advertising campaign aimed at the general public will be the best way to solve Salou's problems. "It's essentially a travel-trade problem," she explains. "The consumer's memory is very short."

Some ground has already been won in the battle to regain travel industry confidence. Kevin Ivis, sales and marketing director of Intasun, who has been to Salou, says: "The area that was affected was one small part at the end of the resort."

Thomson, whose mass evacuation

featured in many of the tabloid reports, did not include Salou in its winter brochure, but says it will in summer. Peter Rothwell, marketing director of the travel agent Lunn Poly, says: "We are selling holidays in Salou, but in reduced numbers."

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Alexander Garrett

Field Sales Executive

(O.T.E. £16-225,000)

The Company

Thames Valley Auto Trader is the largest of a nationwide group of specialist publications for buying and selling motor vehicles. Through its unrivalled reputation for response, Thames Valley Auto Trader has built up a regular content of in excess of 10,000 advertised cars each week, with an ABC Circulation in excess of 55,000 copies weekly in the Thames Valley/West London areas.

The Job

You will be responsible for achieving good results for your customers through advertising in Thames Valley Auto Trader and in the process, surpassing the Company's Sales Targets. Your customers will include a very wide spectrum of advertisers who can benefit from promotion of their business through the publication.

The Person

You will be likely to be aged 24-32 with a sound track record of success in Media Sales, self-motivated with the desire to succeed in a competitive market place.

Auto Trader

ADVERTISING SALES

£25K - £55 PA

We are publishers of many of the world's leading titles for corporate decision makers including Business Strategy International and Global Investment Management.

The launch of a number of important new titles has created vacancies for high calibre Advertising Sales Executives.

We are looking for articulate and motivated young people who can deal effectively on the telephone with international clients and prospective advertisers.

As part of a major publishing group, our Sales Executives are accustomed to realising the highest earnings in media sales.

If you have good advertising sales experience or the relevant communication skills, then please telephone:

Chris Humphreys or Laurence Garman
at Cornhill Publications
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CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued from page 25

£17,000 + IMM MORTGAGE SUBSIDY + BENS SENIOR SECRETARY

This is an interesting role for a secretary with minimum of 5 years exp. at senior level. Preferably in a supervisory role within a banking or city environment. You will be reporting to 2 Directors and will therefore need to have a flexible approach. Superb working environment. An efficient and cheerful personality would fit in extremely well.

Phone Susan on 01 - 379 6240

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SALARY: £14,000 +

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LEGAL

WC1, WC2, SW6

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Preferably with knowledge of the property market, you must have proven sales ability and be free to travel frequently in Europe.

This is an excellent career opportunity and salary package will be commensurate with experience.

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FREEDOM-OF-FRANCE
Freedom of France,
2-4 Market Place,
Rush-on-Wye, HRS SLD.
Tel: (0989)764211.

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ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

PMPP is a leading television facilities company servicing the independent sector of the television industry.

We require a highly resourceful person to work as Assistant to the Managing Director. The company is about to enter an exciting phase of expansion and the position will be both challenging and demanding.

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All correspondence should include a day-time contact telephone number and be marked Assistant to M.D. on the reverse of the envelope.

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TM
01-584 3222
£17,000
PALL MALL
A polished PA is needed for a small and exclusive company. Lots of involvement with your job. You would be working for a young and energetic Director within an exciting atmosphere. 1000wpm typing. Start as soon as possible. Age 21+.
Please call us for an interview at 6.00pm.
LONDON BRUSSELS

TEST AND COUNTY CRICKET BOARD
REQUIRE A CRICKET LOVING PA/SECRETARY
AN IMMEDIATE vacancy has arisen for a conscientious, competent sport oriented PA/Secretary to the Administration Secretary. Applicants should have good shorthand and WP skills and must be able to work on their own initiative. This interesting position involves dealing with a variety of matters connected with the administration of cricket including the preparation of Administrative Agendas and Minute writing. Attractive employment package, dependent upon age and experience. Applications in writing including C.V. and references please to the Administration Secretary, TCCB, Lord's Cricket Ground, St John Wood Road, London, NW8 8QZ to arrive by 9th January.
PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

PERSONNEL IN BANKING
£13,000 + Mortgage
A prestigious UK Merchant Bank in the heart of the City is looking for an experienced PA to work for their Director of Personnel. A busy and dynamic man, he needs a good organizer to be his right hand. Your responsibilities will include handling your own correspondence as well as liaising with headquarters and a very senior level in the bank. If you have the maturity and initiative to undertake this demanding role, please call us as soon as possible. Skills: 90/50 Age: 25 - 35
City Office Tel: 726 8491
ANGELA MORTIMER

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
PA/Secretary, aged 25+ with skills of 90/60 to provide full backup to MD and Director of small International Property Development Co. (London or other European locations on advertisement). Intelligence, ability to take initiative and work on one's own in interesting and varied environment. Fine opportunity for career minded person. Salary £15,000 pa + benefits
Please contact Peter Harrington on Tel: 01-928 4188

ASSISTANT TO MD
W1 Telephones company needs help from an intelligent, organized, self-motivated secretary with good shorthand and word processing skills. Excellent salary for right applicant.
Please reply in writing to Mary Lamprell, 48 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3AD.

INTERNATIONAL ESTATE AGENTS
Requires bright secretary for young enthusiastic firm. £9,000 pa. 1st/2nd jobbers welcome.
Tel EDWARDS 01 749 7125

SALES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Due to our expansion programme, the BCS GROUP LTD are seeking an enthusiastic sales person for the London area.

This position will also involve estimating contracts in a wide variance of business environments. Salary + bonus + car circa £18,000 per annum. Telephone Patricia Alronson 01-778-5886.

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We have a vacancy for an Interior Designer/Manager for our rapidly expanding business.

This position offers unlimited scope for personal career development linked closely with the successful growth of the Company.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day running of the company. Salary will be in the range of £10,000 to £15,000 per annum plus a Company car and agreed bonus scheme. If you have the drive, enthusiasm and flair to meet this challenge then write to the first instance giving full details of your career to date to: John Davies, 43 Watling Street, Pottersbury, Nr. Worcester, Northamptonshire NN12 7QD.

MEDIA & MARKETING

New face of the Mirror

Roy Greenslade, newly appointed editor of the *Daily Mirror*, talks to Colin Dunne



"I would like it to be a campaigning newspaper": Greenslade makes plans

The last time Roy Greenslade worked in the *Daily Mirror* office in Holborn, London, he had shoulder-length hair and wore platform-soled shoes and a scotch-tweed jacket. He borrowed a fur coat from his wife and many of his ideas from Chairman Mao. When he returns to the *Mirror* on February 1 his bespoken tweed will be a little more subdued, which is only as it should be. This time, he's the editor.

There are bigger papers than the *Mirror*, and no doubt there are better papers, too. But for many journalists no newspaper has quite the same glow of glamour, however faded it may be these days, and to edit the *Mirror* still remains, for them, the ultimate dream.

When it was offered to Greenslade he accepted without

even asking what the salary was. The man who was once a thorn in the side of management — "I think I made life miserable for the *Mirror* Group generally," he confesses — has now been hired to employ that passion in the *Mirror's* running battle with *The Sun*.

It is, in a minor sort of way, a historic moment. Traditionally, the *Mirror* has always prided itself on being self-sufficient in matters of talent, and this is the first time for many years that it has looked outside the building for an editor. And what has it got? A man who has worked on almost every tabloid in Fleet Street, including five years at the elbow of the tempestuous Kelvin MacKenzie at *The Sun*, and the past three, rather more soberly, as associate editor of *The Sunday Times*. Can he do it? MacKenzie is retaining his cool: in his letter of

congratulation to Greenslade he said he was looking forward to the tussles ahead. The feeling is mutual.

Greenslade, who turned 43 this week, is not without inside information about his new job: he is married to Noreen Taylor, one of the most stylish of the *Mirror's* writers. They live in a Georgian terraced house in Islington, have a flat in Brighton, and another house which they recently bought in Donegal.

He is a difficult man to classify. He loves Wagner and Beethoven,

library, he used to rent out the storeroom to courting couples, and the library table to shove-ha'penny players; when the headmaster heard about this display of entrepreneurial enterprise he helped Greenslade find a job on a local paper, with the warning that he would never be good enough for *The Times*. Next came Fleet Street, and his affair with passionate politics.

At the age of 30, he decided he needed more education. He read politics at Sussex University, a process which, he says, deradicalized him. He plunged back into journalism and was soon scaling the executive ladder. Some of his old employers were understandably nervous. "Tell me," said a *Sun* management man before Greenslade was taken to meet Rupert Murdoch, "am I right in thinking that you are not the same Roy Greenslade who left here in 1973?" Greenslade was happy to confirm that he was a very different man indeed.

At 7.50 am on Boxing Day he received a call from Robert Maxwell. For a moment he thought it might be a joke call from a friend who had tried a similar hoax in the past. Luckily, he recognized the real thing. Before that he had met Maxwell only twice: once at dinner, and once in court when he was testifying for *The Sun* in a copyright wrangle with the *Mirror*. But by that afternoon the job was his.

What will Greenslade's *Mirror* be like? "I would like to get back to more politics in the paper, more sociology and global reporting, without losing the essential element of entertaining. I would also like it to be a campaigning newspaper, fighting for justice on social issues. Politically, I think Kinnock has made the Labour Party electable again, and we will be foursquare behind him."

The best of the east comes west

The brightest Soviet weekly is being published in London

Quietly and discreetly, a new magazine has been launched in London. *Arguments and Facts International* is a monthly English digest edition of the world's biggest-circulation weekly, the Moscow-published *Argumenty i Fakty* — subscription 31.5 million, conservatively estimated readership 63 million, which is half the adult population of the Soviet Union.

The deputy editor, Alexander Meshchersky, aged 42, was in London for the launch. A diplomat at the UN in Geneva until 1985, when he joined Vladimir Starikov, *Argumenty i Fakty's* editor-in-chief, he has a quick mind and fluent English and French.

"The difference between *Argumenty i Fakty* and other Soviet newspapers, long before glasnost," he says, "was the tone. Where they preached, we described; where they asserted, we asked questions."

The English *Arguments and Facts International* is actually the creation of a Hastings-based Scots journalist-publisher, Stuart Christie, aged 42, who became intrigued with the Soviet weekly about two years ago. "I was stunned by its intellectual and journalistic quality," he says. "But most of all, by its total independence."

He invited Starikov and Meshchersky to London, where they spent time at *The Economist*. "By last June we had decided how to do it," he says. So far, Christie has financed the venture. "The company that owns the paper," Meshchersky says, "earns millions, but we exist on a pittance." Christie says the Soviet weekly is owned by the Knowledge Society (Znanie), an organization of millions of academics all over the Soviet Union.

"We get 6 per cent of the income," Meshchersky says.

"And we operate with 20 journalists, from an office which consists of two Moscow flats."

A & F International — subscription £60 a year — aims at business people and academics interested in the Soviet Union's potential. It comprises articles and readers' letters from *Argumenty i Fakty* chosen by the Soviet editors and translated in Moscow. A pilot copy was produced in October and the first 1,500-print run of 58 pages offers the most varied and critical view of Soviet life I have seen.

"It is true, we are very critical-minded; we believe in questions rather than rhetoric or ideology," Meshchersky says. "We are concerned about Gorbachev and his developing liking for power — and we say so. At the same time, we know — and he knows — that he is irreplaceable. I was in Leningrad in 1985 when Gorbachev made his first walkabout in the streets. Nobody who saw the people

come to life when he spoke — not at, but with them — will ever forget this."

And that is exactly what *Argumenty i Fakty* — reflected by its English sibling — attempts: a dialogue with the public. "The Soviet Union's daily problems are largely economic," Meshchersky says. "But beyond that, and far more fundamental for the people, is that in order to succeed in the essential changes Gorbachev knows must be achieved, and which are opposed by some still very powerful people, he must destroy the system which made him. The question we, as a paper, and our 60-odd million readers with us are asking every week on every page is, can he do it?"

Gitta Sereny

● *Arguments and Facts International*, PO Box 35, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 2UX.
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One, two, three for 5...

Timing is crucial in Channel 5's bid for viewers, Sue Stoessl argues

The Broadcasting Bill requires the Independent Television Commission to do all it can "to secure the provision of a television broadcasting service", called Channel 5.

At a time when British households will have the ability to acquire equipment to receive satellite television — and, for some, cable as well — it is difficult to see the need for Channel 5. But the equipment needed to receive the new terrestrial channel will be cheap — no more than a new aerial for the 70 per cent of the British population which, the Department of Trade and Industry estimates, will be able to receive the signal.

The level of Channel 5's success will depend on two major factors — the programmes to be shown and the starting date of the new service.

As there have been at each previous franchise round. With the addition of the "highest bidder" requirement to the applications there is likely to be more change in programming companies than on the two previous franchise occasions.

Every time there has been a change of company supplying the programme schedule to an area, the audience has reduced significantly; it has taken some time for it to adapt to the new programmes or the new scheduling of old programmes. Meanwhile, the

programmes will disappear. These will be programmes that appeal to, and are made specifically for, a British audience. They are likely to be the more expensive ones, such as drama.

If Channel 5 is to gain an audience share of 10 per cent and provide the viewer with the programmes that ITV will no longer be able to afford to make, the starting date for the new service is very important. The new Channel 3 franchises will start on January 1, 1993. It is likely that there will be some new license holders,

BBC channels have picked up more viewers.

If Channel 5 is to get a large enough audience, it is very important for it to start at the same time as the new Channel 3 companies. This would enable Channel 5 to take advantage of audience uncertainty.

How could Channel 5 get on the air by January 1993? The only way would be for the ITC to go to tender for Channel 5 before Channel 3's tenders are announced. If the Channel 5 contract was awarded at the beginning of 1991, the new company would have sufficient time to prepare for 1993 launch. But, if the ITC awards the Channel 3 franchises first, Channel 5 would not get on the air until 1994. By then cable and satellite television will be further developed, and the new Channel 3 stations will have settled down.

One of the reasons Channel 5 was first thought of was to give the advertising industry additional income linked to increased commercial audiences. A start date of 1994 would not do this; by then, the pay-film channels will have further reduced the available commercial audience. For Channel 5 to be successful, a January 1993 launch is essential.

● The author is a marketing consultant and former head of marketing for Channel 4

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The colossus who bestrides the century



Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson are two of the great names of modern sport. In the first of a three-part series in which they assess the world scene, Coe looks back with Thompson on the 1980s

As the Nineties begin, I find myself in Melbourne in the company of Daley Thompson. It is accidental, but a pleasure all the same, to spend time with him and his family after we have been through so much together.

Daley and I have shared competitions, events, hotels, training camps, British and English teams, rostrums, successes and disappointments all over the world. We have come through it all as friends. And it has been good, these last few days, to train together again and to talk over memories and opinions from a busy and exciting 10 years.

And, in one respect, to compare thoughts on achievements over a longer period, on the best-known faces in sport this century, based on our own relatively short experience.

First, the good news for British sport is that Daley is looking very good again in training. He has got back much of his old zip, pace and agility. It is to be hoped that this means that the recent operation has been a success. He has had to pull out of the Commonwealth Games later this month — a competition — but he looks to me a strong bet for the European Championships at Split in September.

I hate to burden him with such predictions (a doubtful practice, which I normally avoid) but Daley is one of the great champions of the 1980s and I feel there are many more great days left in his prodigious locker.

It is the Commonwealth Games that have brought us together here. I am in training to compete in the 800 and the 1,500 metres, my swansong in athletics. Daley booked himself in for the decathlon, but when he had to drop out he decided to make this a winter training base, getting himself ready for next season.

Between sessions and over meals and evenings, we have talked and talked, looking back, as old warriors



The champion who takes it all in his stride: Thompson ahead of his arch rival, Hiegeson, of West Germany (far left), in the decathlon 110 metres hurdles at Stuttgart in 1984

do. I asked him for his main sporting memories of the decade. He turned this into a question about the great events in world sport.

Some may be surprised that his two choices were not from our game of track and field. He told me that his mind went back first to the Wimbledon singles final of 1980, Borg v McEnroe, the old champion against the young pretender, when the old hand hung in there to win in the fifth set after a magnificent match of contrasting styles and talents. The following year, of course, McEnroe — one of my own favourites — got his revenge and began to make his mark on the decade.

Daley's second choice was the Ryder Cup victory in the United States, when we retained the trophy won two years before at The Belfry. Tony Jacklin's team upset all the odds and the American home advantage to record a win which would have been unthinkable in the previous decade.

Talking about golf, we both observed that this sport remains a model of excellent behaviour — it still reflects that original concept of sportsmanship on which all our

modern games were originally based. Would that similar standards had applied throughout world and British sport throughout the last 10 years! But it did not, and those problems of behaviour which lie at the root of fair play are the key ones to tackle in the next 10 years.

Regrettably, neither Daley nor I are optimistic that the necessary will and leadership are yet available, in sport and its administration, to achieve the changes so badly required. But that is the stuff of another article.

Following Daley's lead, I pondered upon my two best events of the last decade. Like him, I found myself with two obvious "winners", and both from other sports than our own. I am sure these choices reflect what we both like to watch when we are away from the daily business of training and competition. Or, as I put it in Los Angeles during the 1984 Games, when we are away "from the days at the office".

In football and boxing lay my two favourite moments. First, I must choose the 1982 World Cup match between Brazil and Italy. Italy, spearheaded with wonderful skill and pace by Paulo Rossi, won 3-2

against all the predictions. The game had everything, except that foul, malicious element which has disfigured the "beautiful game" of football in recent times.

There was great ability, co-ordination, speed and finishing and the winners went on deservedly to lift the trophy, which they will defend on their own patch next year.

I look forward to the World Cup in Italy and I plan to attend it because, at the end of a dreadful decade for football, full of pain and torment, it remains for me the top team game in the world. Matches like this one provide thrills and entertainment of a glorious kind. If only the big problems of footballism, of behaviour — and the two are linked — could be solved, or at least improved in the next few years.

My second choice takes me back, like Daley, to the first year of the decade. It is boxing, and the first contest between Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard. Duran won on points after an epic struggle between two boxers of the highest class. I have this abiding memory of Duran having to be restrained by his corner from coming out again for what would have been a

sixteenth round; and I understood just for once why some of the original matchmakers used to decree that top contests were fought to the finish.

That day both contestants would have accepted such a challenge, and it would have been safe, heroic, an even more glorious spectacle. But I would not wish to change any of the essential safety rules so necessary in this sport.

Neither Daley nor I considered, in these reflections, either of what we would call "parlor games" — snooker or darts. They have been big television box-office in the last decade. Let us just say that we remain agnostic about their proper place in the sporting spectrum.

Who do we think has been the outstanding sportsman or sports-woman of the last decade? I am sure this debate has been repeated in pubs and clubs, in kitchens and sitting-rooms, up and down the country. Daley and I surprised each other (again) by finding that we were in complete agreement, that the choice was easy, and that in fact the man concerned would get our vote quickly and firmly as the

Sportsman of the Century. It is Muhammad Ali, whose best deeds were in the previous decade. But he was a truly great athletic talent. He is a genuine sporting hero.

As we talked we wondered if there had been a better-known face in the past 90 years than Ali's. In his peak years (and probably even now) we doubt if there was a street in Europe, Asia, Africa or anywhere that he could walk down without being recognized.

So far I have not mentioned our main sporting passion — athletics, or track and field, as the Americans prefer to call it. Daley and I agreed on the main event of the 1980s. It was Stuttgart in 1986, the European Championships, in which the finest team of this country, or anywhere else, that we have been lucky to be part of, every height, distance and speed to grab a record total of nine gold medals.

Television viewers back home got at least one champion each night. I got a major 800 metres title at last in a race where Britain was first, second and third, a rare testament to our years of middle-distance excellence. Daley won, as he has done throughout the years of his success, almost as a matter of

course, but he had some tough competition, from fine West Germans, in particular.

That was our main event; but we both feel that the Olympics of the decade were those in Los Angeles in 1984. Of course, I cannot comment on Seoul, but Daley keeps assuring me that I did not miss very much. He will not convince me, but I appreciate the thought. What we are both clear about is the high sporting standard of 1984, the effective organization, the fun, the sun, the spirit.

There was a boycott, of course. The Eastern bloc stayed away. As with any boycott, it is plain now (as it was then) that those who suffered from the boycott were the countries concerned. Their competitors suffered, missing a great event for which they had worked long and hard; and their domestic sport suffered, lacking the edge and urge and targets that only an Olympics can provide.

If you doubt me, look how long it took the African track team to recover from its boycotts during the 1970s.

We came at last to our disappointments of the Eighties. For Daley, it is about the well-being of our sport. After 10 years of amazing success, he notes that British athletics still appears to have no sound base. There is no stadium, no national centre, no office, no effective, national coaching structure. Should we not have made more of the days of honey? How are we to build for the future?

In these darker thoughts neither of us wanted to dwell on personal setbacks. My main disappointment concerns the continuing rebel tours to South Africa. I wonder why those few of my fellow sportsmen and women involved cannot take the balanced, human view of the offers they get; why they cannot see the real road behind the posturing about building bridges.

The sporting boycott of South Africa is one begun many years ago by sport itself, by bodies like the IAAF, the IOC and FIFA. Governments were late into the game; and for the vital reason that the very essence of sport is fair and open competition, regardless of creed and colour. The day that is possible in South Africa will be the day for international sport to think again, but not before.

On this note, I must record that Daley's really big day of the 1980s was not in sport. It was the birth of his daughter, with whom I had the pleasure of spending part of an unusual Christmas at Melbourne in temperatures of 36°C as he and I looked ahead to different things in the next decade, to lives beyond sport, which must be the last and appropriate reflection.

Sport is the stuff of life; it is often the very essence, but it is not, and should not be, life itself. That is another thought that Daley and I will share as we spend a few more training and talking days together.

TOMORROW

The need for fair play

President's Putter displays scant regard for reputation

By John Hennessey

The President's Putter competition is no respecter of persons. You may go home one year trailing clouds of glory after a heroic victory on the hallowed links of Rye, but you are just one of the crowd 12 months later, subject to any quirks the draw may throw up. No nonsense here about pampered treatment for the holder and other distinguished entries.

So it is that Mark Froggatt, the holder, has been immediately summoned to the tee today for what used to be called, dismissively, the preliminary round. With a record entry of 170 among the members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, today's play, for the first time, becomes the first round.

The draw has confronted Froggatt with a formidable adversary in Simon Ellis, like Froggatt, a former Cambridge captain. Ellis is a low-handicap member of Royal St George's, so this is a tie that carries the

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	405	4	11	425	4
2	162	3	12	335	4
3	437	4	13	420	4
4	358	3	14	338	4
5	198	3	15	178	3
6	494	4	16	408	4
7	417	4	17	418	4
8	383	4	18	224	3
9	393	4	19	434	4

Total yardage: 6,910

Par: 68

possibility of instant detention.

Guy Woollett, an American, is another who might have been accorded certain privileges in any other tournament. He achieved a rare victory for Oxford two years ago in the final against Ted Dexter, but he, too, flying the Atlantic for the purpose of the event, has to play an extra round.

Woollett today faces Gordon MacGowan, another former Cambridge captain. Dexter's name came out of the hat first round and he is off at 1.15pm tomorrow against Andrew

Maagott, of Oxford. Fiona Macdonald ploughs her furrow as the only woman ever to play in the competition and her opponent, on the event's 70th anniversary, is Peter Osborn, a Cambridge Blue of a mature vintage. Osborn, however, is still said to be a fine player and this should be a fascinating encounter just after noon.

A Rye spy reports superb conditions for the tournament, which ends on Sunday. The weather was ideal yesterday, with not a breath of wind, and the course was justifying its high reputation for mid-winter conditions. Even so, many traditionalists will no doubt recall the punishing frosts of yesterday.

A new first tee will be used for the first time, increasing its distance to 303 yards and creating a more spectacular tee shot. The length of the course is now 6,310 yards, par 68, but the standard scratch score of 71 more truly reflects the difficulties.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Barriers must be removed

By Jane Wyatt

Many leading disabled sports people will enter the new decade hoping for further improvements that have been effected over the last 10 years. Undoubtedly some things have improved. A more professional approach in many sports has led to higher standards and greater achievements on the international scene, but the twin goals of integration and self-empowerment are, in most cases, more specific on the horizon.

Athletes still feel regarded as second-class citizens who are merely "playing" at being champions. With some notable exceptions, such as in canoeing and snooker, they are at best ignored by the able-bodied sporting establishment.

A readiness to consider how disabled people could be encouraged to take up different sports initially, to see how they could compete, if not alongside, then at the same time in the same venues, would be a start.

Sport for people with disabilities is often organized by the able-bodied. Athletes can feel patronized. Moreover, sports people with disabilities often would like to work in their particular sporting field. Changes are taking place, as demonstrated by the athletes' demanding and getting representation on the British Paralympic Association through the formation of an athletes committee.

It is hoped that during the Nineties there will be less ghetto sport with disabilities groups clinging to their established traditions and shrinking anti-disability events.

To be a top-class athlete is tough. People with disabilities do not need or ask for condescension and only the best should be chosen to represent their country. The media will have a significant role to play in the development of sport for people with disabilities over the next decade. In the past, coverage has been patchy and condescending. One can only hope that the professionalization of sport for people with disabilities will mean that producers looking for new ideas will discover that wheelchair basketball is visually spectacular, or that watching a blind person shoot a rifle is a fascinating exercise, or that bowls is just as interesting if the competitor happens to be in a wheelchair.

OVERSEAS CRICKET

South African board allows Wessels best of both worlds

By Simon Wilde

Controversy has broken out on South Africa over the decision of the South African Cricket Union (SACU) to declare Kevin Wessels eligible for the national team to play against Mike Gatting's England XI in a series of matches starting later this month.

Wessels, who was born in South Africa, responded to his country's sporting isolation by taking up residence in Queensland and playing 24 Tests for Australia between 1982-83 and 1985-86. He also appeared for Kim Hughes's Australian XI in South Africa three years ago, even though he had returned to his native country by then and was playing for Eastern Province.

Some senior South African players are reported to be happy at the SACU's willingness to welcome back Wessels because they feel he is getting the best of both worlds. Al Adcock, the SACU's managing director, defended the decision, saying that Wessels had agreed only reluctantly to play for Hughes's side, which was short of quality batting.

Butcher added: "Nobody can hold it against any of our players who go overseas and enter Test cricket through the back door. People like Kepler, Allan Lamb, and Chris and Robin Smith, have done this and have excelled. We are extremely proud of them. It is not their fault that this situation arose. Deep down they're still our boys."

Others to show good form with the bat were Clive Rice, the Transvaal captain, who passed 25,000 first-class runs during his 95 against Natal, and Peter Kirsten, who scored 185 out of 328 for eight centuries for Orange Free State.

It was Kirsten's first century for three years, in the same match. Allan Donald, the Warwickshire fast bowler, took three wickets in four balls for Orange Free State.

Queensland are in a strong position to reach the Sheffield Shield final, having opened up an eight-point lead at the top of the table. At the weekend, they beat New South Wales in Brisbane by five wickets after being set 304 to win. A month ago they failed to reach the more modest target of 164 against the same opponents in Sydney.

CYCLING

Big prize may lure LeMond

By Peter Bryson

The Tour de Trump, the richest race in the United States, named after its main sponsor, Donald Trump, has a record \$250,000 (about £155,000) in prize-money this year, the organizers said yesterday.

Start and finish points and intermediate stage towns will not be announced until January 15 in New York.

Eleven amateur and nine professional seven-man teams will compete in the 11-day, 1,000-mile race, with a British professional squad again likely to be invited.

Last year, when the race was first held, Paul Curran, finishing sixteenth, was best of the British. Peter Bilton team, but the squad was disbanded in October and Curran is among those still seeking a contract for this year.

There is speculation in the United States that Greg LeMond, the world champion and winner of the Tour de France last year, will ride in the Trump, starting on May 3. The tour will go through six north-eastern states.

Results from yesterday's meetings

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm
12.45 (2m hdl) 1. ACRE HILL (S. South) 5-1; 2. Run Again (M. Richards) 5-1; 3. Gower's Challenge (J. Darwood) 11-2; 4. Royal Croaker (J. Darwood) 11-2; 5. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 6. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 7. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 8. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 9. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 10. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 11. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 12. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 13. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 14. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 15. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 16. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 17. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 18. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 19. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 20. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 21. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 22. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 23. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 24. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 25. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 26. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 27. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 28. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 29. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 30. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 31. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 32. Stymie (J. Darwood) 11-2; 33. 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